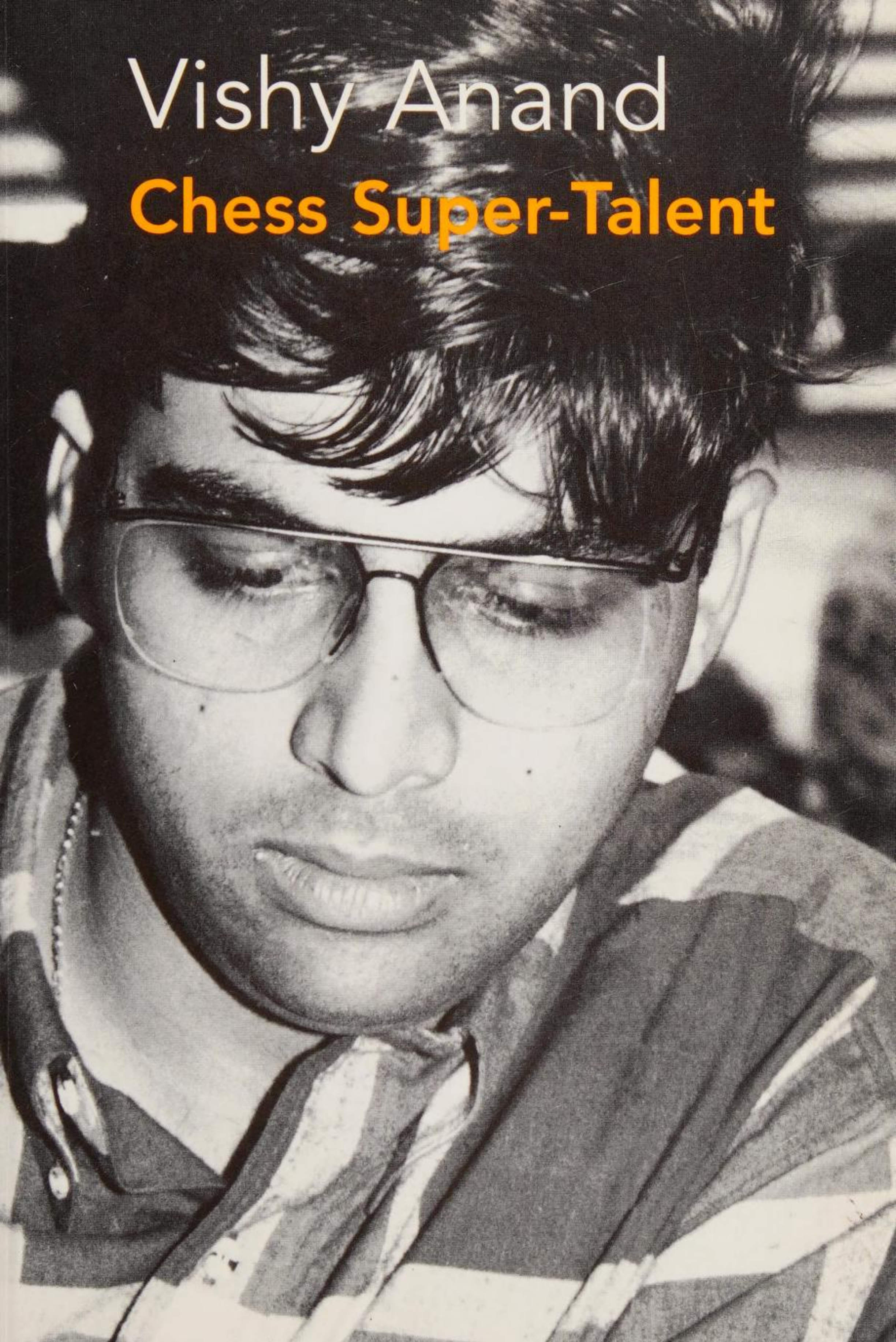
Vishy Anand

Chess Super-Talent



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Vishy Anand: Chess Super-Talent

International Grandmaster
David Norwood

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Symbols

+	Check
++	Double check
#	Checkmate
± (∓)	Slight advantage to White (Black)
± (∓)	Clear advantage to White (Black)
+– (–+)	Winning advantage to White (Black)
Δ	Intending
=	Level position
∞	Unclear position
⩲	With compensation
!	Good move
?	Bad move
!!	Outstanding move
??	Blunder
!?	Interesting move
?!	Dubious move
Ch	Championship
Cht	Team championship
tt	Team tournament
jr	Junior Event
wom	Women's event
rpd	Rapidplay
Wch	World Championship
Z	Zonal
IZ	Interzonal
Ct	Candidates
OL	Olympiad
Corr	Postal game
(D)	Diagram follows

Foreword

I offered a draw feeling fairly confident that he would accept. Some might have considered my offer a little impertinent. After all, I was playing Viswanathan Anand, who the week before had defeated the World Champion, Garry Kasparov.

It was January 1992, and we were playing round 4 of the Goodricke International, Calcutta, in Vishy's home country India. A crowd had appeared to greet Vishy at the airport and indeed he deserved a hero's welcome, having just taken first place at the historic Reggio Emilia tournament in Italy. I was just another grandmaster, trying to win a few rupees to pay for a few weeks travelling around India.

As I expected, Vishy accepted the draw. My one claim to fame that will be passed down to my grandchildren is that I've beaten Anand twice with Black. This time I was White, slightly better in a dull position where nobody could really do anything. Besides Anand did not seem to be in an ambitious mood. 'If you aren't trying to win this position, then neither am I!' Anand had to sign a round of signatures before he was allowed away from the board.

'Why did you not try to win, Mr. Norwood?' one reporter demanded. 'Well, the World Champion lost with the white pieces against Anand. I wanted to do better.' This off-hand remark made it to front page of the *Calcutta Telegraph* as the quote of the day. 'I think they are disappointed with you,' Anand chided me gently, 'I'd told them you were a real fighter and they could expect an exciting game today.'

'Come on Vishy, let's go to this little Indian café I know round the corner.' Anand seemed happy at the prospect of escaping the throng, which resembled something from Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. But stepping into the filthy, sweltering Calcutta streets brought us little respite. Excited Indians kept standing next to Anand, as he was trying to walk forward, while their friends took photographs. They wanted to give the impression that Anand was standing with them for the pose, whereas Vishy was trying to walk forward. The whole picture was rather comical.

Our progress was so slow that I had time to buy a coconut along the way. With amazing dexterity the coconut wallah hacks away with a machete and pops a straw into the hole. Coconut water is delicious and protects one from India's biggest curse: diarrhoea. Afterwards, he will hack apart the coconut so that you can munch away on the skin. The whole thing is a bargain for 3 rupees.

Anand had finally shaken off his well-wishers and we turned into a Calcutta side street. His relief was short-lived. Three 'officials' appeared insisting that they needed to accompany Mr. Anand for reasons of security. Anand seemed on the verge of losing his temper (it would be interesting to see him do so one day) and the trio sensed that they were on the verge of a talking-to from their demigod. They slipped away somewhat dejected.

Alone at last in a quiet street (they exist even in Calcutta) I led the way to the eating place. Dismay. It was closed. I started muttering apologetically but Anand was cheerful just to get away. 'Shame though, the place served Southern Indian food.' Just as we were turning back, a sudden commotion shook the street. The restaurant owner came running out of his house, kicking servants along the way. 'Don't worry Mr. Anand, Sir; I will open the restaurant for you...'

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1 The Road to New York: Background

The Autumn of 1995 is a very significant time for Viswanathan Anand. He faces Garry Kasparov, probably the greatest player of all time, for the world chess throne. I say 'throne' because there is no question that Kasparov sits at the top of the chess pyramid. But to say that he is the World Chess Champion runs into instant controversy.

The chess world has become a very confusing place in recent years. The trouble all began in early 1993, in the months prior to the FIDE World Championship Match between Garry Kasparov and England's Nigel Short. To give a full account would require a book far longer than this one, but a brief summary is as follows:

FIDE, the World Chess Federation, has historically been responsible for organising World Championship matches. They negotiated a deal with Manchester, Short's home city, to host the final (Manchester was also preparing a bid to hold the Olympics). When the prize fund was announced, Short went berserk. Clearly, he had expected the first westerner to challenge for the world title since Bobby Fischer to net a million, but the sums involved were considerably lower. Instead of calling Kasparov a hairy baboon, he called the guy on the phone.

Kasparov has had a long-running feud with the President of FIDE, Florencio Campomanes, ever since Campo halted Gazza's World Championship Match against Karpov in 1984. He had been trying to wrest control of the Championships from Campo, but the other players had repeatedly refused to back him. Now he had a challenger who would stand behind him. A press release was issued (curiously enough, signed by my ex-girlfriend) stating that Short and Kasparov were pulling out of FIDE and running their own match under the auspices of the newly formed Professional Chess Association.

FIDE were not at all happy. The World Championship Cycle is obviously the jewel in their crown, and its loss a threat to

their existence. They protested, they negotiated, they threatened but ultimately the match was held in London, sponsored by *The Times* newspaper. FIDE declared their match void, and removed the players' international ratings. They brought back former Champion Anatoly Karpov and the Dutch Finalist Jan Timman to contest the vacant title. They scheduled a match, half in Holland, and half in Oman to coincide with the London encounter.

Since Short had beaten both the FIDE 'Champions', there was something farcical about the official match. This was exacerbated when the Sultan of Oman pulled out of the sponsorship deal so Campo had to go scouring the world for a host. The match finally ended up in Jakarta. FIDE were starting to look ridiculous but their policy was probably unavoidable under the circumstances. Many of the leading grandmasters were sympathetic because there has long been a general suspicion that Kasparov wants to control the Championship cycle himself.

As expected, Short got massacred by Kasparov, despite pitiful attempts to hype the match. *The Times* put a large sum of money into the match, in my opinion in return for very little goodwill. Karpov also had an easy time. The only result in any doubt was who would win the FIDE-PCA encounter. But this would take time to resolve. Until then, there would be two world championship cycles, and many young players coming up as potential challengers. They had to decide which championship to go for; as pragmatists on and off the board, most of them opted for both.

Even in early 1993, Vishy Anand was being tipped as a possible successor to Kasparov, but he was only one of many. Some experts favoured Alexei Shirov, the young prodigy from Latvia, who always seemed to be staring into space. Vladimir Kramnik, an even younger Russian, had been tipped by Kasparov himself as a likely successor. And then there was Gata Kamsky, the Russian émigré who is as dangerous on the board as his father, Rustam, is off it. Several others, including Boris Gelfand (Belarus), Mickey Adams (England) and Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) made up this hungry new generation of supergrandmasters. In the colourful film, *Highlander*, '...there can be only one.' At least the PCA-FIDE split meant there was room for two.

The FIDE qualification for the 1995 World Championship had taken place in Biel, Switzerland in July 1993, before the Short-Kasparov match. This had been one huge Swiss where all the top GMs had their chance to take one of the ten qualifying places.

Anand headed the list, which included Boris Gelfand, Michael Adams, Kamsky, Valery Salov, Alexander Khalifman, Joel Lautier, Leonid Yudasin and Vladimir Kramnik. Jan Timman and Artur Yusupov had already qualified by virtue of being losing semi-finalists from the previous cycle.

For Anand, this was only one side of the coin. He now had to earn his place in the PCA cycle, especially as the new organisation had just won backing from Intel Corp. Producing nearly 80% of all computer chips (386, 486, Pentium et al.), Intel is one of the world's most profitable companies. Money tends to confer legitimacy, especially in the financially starved chess world, so this deal meant that the PCA were increasingly being seen as the ones to run with.

The PCA 'Interzonal' in Groningen, Holland, was a big affair. Over $200,000 of Intel loot had attracted more than fifty of the top grandmasters. Despite the lottery effect of these events, the big names got through. Adams and Anand led the pack, followed by Kamsky, Kramnik, Tiviakov, Boris Gulko and Oleg Romanishin. Once again Shirov fans were disappointed that their volatile genius didn't get through. These seven players joined Nigel Short, to go to the quarter-final stage.

This meant that Anand (along with Adams, Kamsky and Kramnik) was busy. He had two world championship cycles to contend with. Fortunately, the FIDE-PCA rivalry never got so petty that the matches were scheduled simultaneously. The boy is fast, but he ain't that fast. His first appointment was in the New Year of 1994, in Wijk aan Zee, Holland. This was the first round of the FIDE cycle. Pitted against the veteran match player Artur Yusupov, a close fight was expected. Uncharacteristically, Yusupov was crushed 4½-2½.

Next was New York in early June. For many the Trump Tower seemed like an ideal venue, but the players seemed dissatisfied with the playing conditions, especially Kramnik who had to take the lift outside to smoke. Was that why he was beaten so

decisively by Kamsky? Anand had a relatively easy pairing against Oleg Romanishin, the lowest-ranked of the candidates. Scoring 5-2, Anand made it look even easier than the Yusupov match.

There can be no doubt that Anand was now on a roll, but he seemed to be keeping his composure. After his victory in New York we shared a cab to watch the rapidplay Intel Grand Prix. I asked him about his chances against Kasparov. 'Why ask about Kasparov? I'm playing Kamsky next.' But others around him were getting excited, especially in his home country. Sanghi Industries had bid for the Anand-Kamsky match, so Vishy would have the advantage of playing on home turf in the town of Sanghi Nagar near Hyderabad. As it turned out, this 'advantage' was not necessarily so...

It could not have started better. After drawing the first two games, Vishy raced into the lead with two wins. Then a draw. Then...a loss, and another. The final game was drawn so it went to a rapid play-off. Kamsky's nerves were like steel. When the smoke had cleared, Gata had won both games, and a nation shed a billion tears. Some hours after the game I spoke with Frederic Friedel, a close associate of Vishy. 'I have just spoken with Anand;' he confided, 'he is very depressed.'

One good thing about having two championship cycles is that there is little time for the loser to sulk. Not that Anand is the kind of guy prone to sulking, but there is nothing like a new challenge to take your mind of past scars. Anand had to face Adams in the PCA semi-final in Linares, Spain – and that was still the cycle with the big money. After three games it was starting to look like Anand had learned something from his reversal: he'd won all of them. I've known Mickey since he was a wee lad in short trousers but I've never known him so outclassed. The final score was 4 wins, 3 draws, no losses. Not to be outdone, Kamsky massacred Short with 5 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss to win 5½-1½ too.

The final showdown in Las Palmas in March this year had everyone's attention. Kamsky was surely the favourite, having just obliterated Salov in the FIDE cycle. Besides, with so much at stake, nerves were bound to play an important role, and everyone knows that Gata is a machine. I bet £100 on Anand with Mickey Adams's girlfriend Tara

MacGowran. This seemed like a reasonable hedge since I knew that Batsford were only going to make me write the book this year if Anand won.

Anand fans groaned after the first game. How could the fastest player in the world lose on time, in a winning position? But perhaps this was exactly what Vishy needed; now he could relax and play chess. And play chess he did. For the first time in years it was Kamsky's turn to look like the victim. Anand won Games 3, 9 and 11. All the rest were drawn, giving a score of 6½-4½.

Only now did Anand admit in an interview that Kasparov was 'starting to become real.'

2 Viswanathan Anand: Child of India

While waiting to board the British Airways evening flight to Madras, it suddenly struck me that I'd forgotten to get malaria tablets. Not that I ever intended to take tablets (there is enough stress on your stomach in India) but it struck me that familiarity with India might be breeding contempt; perhaps this year it would backfire and I would end up with some virulent form of the disease.

I turned to Nick (Faulks, that is, Bermudan Olympic player, chess writer and patron, and assistant for this trip) to discover that he had been similarly remiss. Only one solution: the bar. There is something very civilised about drinking gin and tonics before a long journey, and it is doubly pleasant if you are lining yourself with quinine as protection against a potentially fatal disease.

It had been one of those chaotic days. Jumping in and out of cabs, queuing to get a visa, rushing to fax my *Telegraph* column, trying to cover an overdraft, culminating in an almighty dash to the airport. Then wrong terminal, hop onto bus, over to Terminal 4, check in, through passport control and finally into sanctuary. The international lounge at an airport is rather like a void. You are neither here nor there. You have left one set of problems behind you, and you are about to move into a new arena of responsibilities. For the moment, though, you are nowhere. There is something comforting in that.

Only now did we start to talk about the purpose of the trip. 'We must get some interviews.' 'Interviews, yes.' 'Maybe we should tape them.' 'Tape, yes.' We both looked at each other; no tape recorder. Down the last of the G & T and another rush to the duty free shop. I spot a mini Dictaphone, and try to buy it. The Asian shop assistant helpfully explains that they have run out of tapes. This seems like a good time to get into the imperial spirit. 'But I *need* tapes. I'm going to India to do interviews on Anand. You have heard of Anand?' He is still

polite; 'Try the shop down on the left. They should have tapes there.' They do, and I buy some CDs as well; after all, it doesn't have to be all work.

My publishers sounded impressed when they discovered I was off to India to do interviews. 'That will be great; you should get some good material from Anand.' 'Well, actually, Anand will not be there.' Puzzled silence. 'I want to talk to his parents; see his family home. Do something a bit different.' I didn't bother trying to explain that I didn't really want to interview Anand. There were several reasons for this. For a start, Vishy has already been over-interviewed. There have been three excellent interviews in the Dutch magazine *New In Chess*, and a slightly more light-hearted chat with English chess player Cathy Forbes. I had read them all, and besides I've known Anand personally for over a decade.

I also knew that a chat with Anand would not yield any hype. When Nigel Short was preparing for his match with Gazza, he livened up news reports with his depictions of the World Champion as a combination of cheating Commie and hairy ape. This wore a little thin when Short threw in his lot with Kasparov to form the PCA. Vishy is a different fellow. He wasn't going to call Kasparov names or predict a crushing victory. It would go along the lines of: 'I have great respect for my opponent. I am working very hard for the match and will do the best I can.' This isn't Bobby Fischer, Gata Kamsky or Nigel Short; it is Viswanathan Anand and he is comfortable with his own image.

There may also have been personal reasons for my reluctance to seek an interview with Anand. I have never been a professional chess player, and this shelters me from a feeling of failure that I never made it as a top grandmaster. Still, I first met Anand in 1984 at the Lloyds Bank Masters. We were both fifteen, and playing very well; in round 7 we came face to face. Vishy won the game, and the post-mortem. I felt that the game could have gone either way, and recall thinking that the kid was a little too big for his boots. I mistook his self-confidence for arrogance, and ten years on I understand that Anand seeks only to be objective. If objectively he's a genius, then what can he do? This confidence, compared with my own self-doubts in chess and the

game of life, I find deeply disturbing.

Even if I had won our first encounter, it would not have mattered. For some time I could rival Anand's results but it was already clear to myself and others that he was the one destined for greatness. I had the same feeling when Mickey Adams appeared on the British chess scene. The sign of a true prodigy is the way they can develop in their own time; results are less important than their overall maturing as a chess master. Now Anand has arrived and I am genuinely happy for him. I am not bitter that he made it and I didn't. My sadness stems from the fact that I was never in the race.

The final reason that I didn't ask Vishy for an interview is quite bizarre. Over the last ten years we've bumped into each other at tournaments around the world. He has always been doing well at the chess, and I was always poking fun, which Anand took in his usual good-natured way. Even if he becomes World Champion, I'll still be ready to make jokes at his expense. Asking for an interview though is different. It gives him the chance to say no. My ego is happy to see him become the Champ, but I'd be shattered if he ever told me that he was far too busy to speak to me.

Knowing full well that Anand was playing in Moscow, I dialled his home number. 'Is Mr. Anand there please?' A pause on the line, which was remarkably clear; 'Anand's father.'

'My name is David Norwood, I'm a friend of Vishy's. You may remember that we met in Calcutta some years ago.'

Another pause; 'Yes.' It was clear that he didn't. 'Anand is in Moscow.'

'Actually, it was you that I wanted to speak to. I'm writing a book on Anand, and since I intend to come to India next month, I was hoping that we could meet for a chat.'

'When will you be coming?' He didn't sound surprised at my request. 'Around the middle of May, if that is convenient.' 'My wife and I should be in Madras then. I am sure that we could see you but please telephone closer to the time.'

'Thank you, that is very kind.' The conversation was formal enough to come from *A Passage to India*.

'You are welcome. Besides I am sure that when you are in India you will find time to visit

Calcutta to see all your girlfriends.' He ended the conversation on this mischievous note, destroying my pretensions to be a serious interviewer. How could I doubt the memory of any member of the Anand family?

A couple of days before my departure, I telephoned 'Mr. Anand' to confirm that I was flying to Madras. Once again he stated that he was happy to see me. 'But call me when you have been a couple of days in India and you have had time to acclimatise. It is very hot in India at the moment.'

The British Airways 'direct' (of course, you have to stop and wait in Bombay, but you don't change planes) flight to Madras was crowded, just like every other BA flight to India that I've been on. To get to our seats Nick and I had to climb over a poor Indian youth who could not walk owing to an injured back. He was a friendly enough fellow, on his way to Madras, although he had to get off at Bombay to board a ship to take him there. Seemed rather a long way of going about. 'Why are you going to India?' 'I'm writing a book about Anand. The chess player, you've heard of him?' 'Oh yes.' he said, and went quiet. Had he really heard of Anand a thousand miles of questioning would have followed.

The majority of the passengers were Indians, although I do not know whether they were Indian or English born. I fancied that the Air India flight would be full of European 'travellers' in search of ethnicity. Since Independence, India has got on remarkably well with its former ruler, much to the chagrin of anti-imperialists. Part of the reason is the mutual attraction that both cultures have for the other, with often ludicrous consequences. Western travellers seeking to get away from it all, 'go native' by dressing up in quasi-Indian clothes and eating in local hovels. In many ways this is less 'real India' than filling out forms in triplicate and drinking Johnny Walker Black Label. The English want to be English Indians and the Indians want to be Indian English.

By the time we arrived in Bombay, I'd had enough gin and tonics to fend off an army of mosquitoes. The plane emptied at Bombay, including the poor cripple next to me who suddenly stood up and walked off with barely a limp. Miracles do happen in India. I was relieved that I wasn't getting off at Bombay. Apart from being trapped at the

airport for 12 hours, I've never been to India's most prosperous city, nor do I wish to go. For all the multinationals wishing to tap the huge Indian market, Bombay is a necessary gateway. Despite having some of India's worst slums, property prices have started to rival Tokyo. It will soon be like any other booming city, with a thousand times more beggars.

The rest of the flight was peaceful, and Madras airport is a much more casual place. Despite being the fourth largest city in India, it is infinitely less cosmopolitan than Delhi or Bombay. I decided to try a gamble with Nick. 'Let's not go to Madras.' He looked puzzled. 'Anand's Dad can't see us for a few days, and I know a great little village a couple of hours away. There's nothing to do in Madras anyway.' Nick also seemed to be mellowed by the G& T's; 'Sounds fine.'

The airport customs were relaxed; they let me through despite the fact that I was carrying a laptop computer. Electrical items are valuable in India, so they tend to monitor what comes in and out. When I first carried a laptop into Calcutta, I was detained for half an hour while several customs officers wrote down every possible detail, on triplicate forms of course.

Perhaps sensing they had been somewhat lax, customs pounced on Nick stating that he would have to present his computer after he had collected his baggage. This he dutifully did, but the initial official seemed to have lost interest. A second official was ready to carry out a detailed search but he was over-ruled by a third. A fourth bade us welcome to India. To the Western eye this might seem like a waste of time and energy. But time and human resources are two of India's most dispensable commodities.

Pushing through the crowds which fence any airport in India was like swimming in a pressure cooker. It was early afternoon and May is the hottest month of the year. I quickly gave up trying to carry my own baggage. India is a third-world country but it's not like Africa. You are quite safe to leave your luggage with the street urchins, even if their contents are worth a lifetime's toil to the wretched souls who carry them. The taxi drivers are a different breed entirely.

In India nothing is fixed. Take the Indian head shake, a rolling figure of eight movement. It looks like the head is shaking to

say 'no'; it doesn't mean 'no' but it doesn't altogether mean 'yes' either. The closest approximate is a general agreement or that the idea is at least possible. So if you request eggs for breakfast, and the waiter gives you the head shake, you are not being refused – but don't bet your last rupee on them arriving. The same is true when you are buying anything: a coconut, a carpet or a taxi from the airport.

I once witnessed haggling *par excellence*. The first time I played in Calcutta (1990), Indian International Master Ravikumar offered to help me buy clothes at the local market. The form goes as follows. Shopkeeper makes initial price. Ravi throws his head in his hands. Shopkeeper adjusts price downwards. Ravi stomps away, quickly for a man of his girth. Shopkeeper shouts him back. Ravi makes a price. This time it's the shopkeeper's turn to be offended. Finally their polaric prices meet and a friendly deal is struck.

Although I've become better at bartering, the taxi drivers are tough nuts to crack. My destination was Mahaballipuram some 90 km away. They stated that the fare was 2000 rupees. Nonsense. The last time I went it was around 300. 'Mahaballipuram, very much far. Petrol now very expensive.' I was tempted to pull out *The Economist* to demonstrate the relative decline of oil prices over the last four years.

I was intent on securing passage for 500, but the taxi drivers were intransigent. Impatiently, I moved to commence negotiations with the taxi behind, but they were displaying solidarity. Any bargaining must be done with the taxi in front. Bargaining was not the word for it; they were just standing watching me perspire in the midday sun. A chess player knows when his position is hopeless, so I resigned myself to paying the extortionate sum of 1200 rupees.

With the harsh words over, the atmosphere in the cab became suddenly pleasant. This seems to be a national characteristic in India. Religious or racial strife can suddenly erupt with extreme violence, as in the Ayodha riots three years ago. The country seems on the verge of civil war, then it all dies down and people start living harmoniously again. My good humour returned now that we were off to Mahaballipuram, a sleepy seaside resort where I'd spent a glorious week in January 1992.

When we finally arrived, I noticed how little had changed. The state-run Tamil Nadu Resort was still the same; if anything the rooms had deteriorated. We decided that the best way to recover from the journey was a walk along the beach. It was late afternoon but the sun was still brilliant and the magnificent shore temples could be seen in the distance. Hundreds of crabs scurried along the beach and a stray dog followed us all the way into town.

We rented bicycles (15 rupees a day, no deposit required) and rode through town. Only now did I start to see changes. There were more places to eat, more kiosks to make international telephone calls, the odd imported car (in India, the Ambassador is *the* standard car). India *is* changing, but very slowly, at her own pace. We stopped for a beer, Kingfisher, at The Village Inn. The walls and roof were made of wood, and fans kept the place tolerably cool. The beer was cold and I squeezed fresh limes to make it even more refreshing. Madonna was sounding from a very worn tape deck, and I decided that it was time to call Mr. Anand.

At this point the amiable young owner started to make a play for our custom at dinner. He brought out a huge tray on which lay a large red lobster and a score of giant prawns. 'I cook it all for you...with chips and garlic sauce...make very special price.' Anand could wait, I'd forgotten how good the seafood was. 'How special the price?' 'For you 700, this is not season so I don't want make profit.' When the price became more special at 400, we closed the deal. 'See you around 7.30.'

By the time we returned to the Inn, news that a couple of spenders were in town had reached the odd ear. I massacred the lobster while simultaneously convincingly the village sleaze that there was no interest in buying hashish. 'But it is very good stuff, from Kerala.' 'Yes, but I don't want any.' 'I make very special price...just buy half amount, etc. etc.' Suddenly, an inspiration; 'I need to change money.' He quoted a good rate, and headed off with my money. Where else can you give the local drug dealer a $100 bill and feel confident he will return?

With my stomach satisfied, my appetite to continue research returned, especially as I sensed that Nick was feeling conned into coming away on just some drunken holiday. Ordering yet

another beer, I demanded of the room; 'Who has heard of the Anand, the chess player?' After all, we were just hours from his home, and I had already witnessed the idolatry he had enjoyed in Calcutta years before when he wasn't even that great. Everyone was eager to please, but it soon became clear that not a single soul had heard of him.

We staggered out into the street at around midnight. I began fumbling to unlock my bicycle. In London I'd have given up and taken a taxi but in India you don't struggle alone for long. A young Indian who spoke excellent English and had a vaguely Caribbean look flicked my lock free in a second. In gratitude we gave him and his friend a lift on the back of the bicycles. 'You must come to the place where I work. Great atmosphere and seafood. Western girls and you can relax playing chess.' At last, a lead. 'You play chess.' 'Sure, I am really good.' 'Have you heard of Anand?' He hesitated, 'No,' he answered truthfully, 'but you must come and try our prawns.'

Despite the hangover, the next morning I was determined to make an appointment with Anand senior. I called him from a STD (Standard Trunk Dialling) kiosk. 'I have arrived in India.' I said, suddenly feeling silly that I sounded like a long-lost relative. 'How are you enjoying your stay so far?' 'It's very nice, thank you; I am staying in Mahabalipuram. I like the beaches and hot weather.' Enough pleasantries. 'I was hoping that I could meet you and your wife. Perhaps you could be my guests for dinner at the Connemara?'

It was then that I discovered why he was being slightly elusive. 'My niece is unwell at the moment. She must have a kidney transplant tomorrow. Perhaps you could ring in a couple of days.' Suddenly, I felt guilty at intruding into his family affairs; he had tried to keep me out with politeness. I muttered apologies and wished his niece a speedy recovery.

'Bad news, Nick. Mr Anand cannot see us for a few days; his niece is very ill.' Nick didn't look perturbed, nor did I feel that the delay was of any consequence. In the West time dictates everything, but there are still places left in the world where it holds little dominion. We were sinking into the Indian pace, the Indian spirit. Our main problem was where to eat lunch. We had issued a drunken promise to return to

the Village Inn, but we were keen to try out the restaurant recommended by our saviours. All we knew was that it was on the beach.

By 1 pm we were staggering along the beach under the merciless sun. The first place we found was called The Seashore; whatever promises we had made, we just could not go on. We ordered the customary beers and allowed the sea breeze to cool us. The owner was young, but quite dignified and obviously smart. By trade he was a fisherman and now he had expanded by buying a restaurant; a vertically integrated business without doubt. He joined us for a beer; even in the South, Hindu principles are fairly flexible.

We talked of Mahaballipuram, and then of India generally. All his forefathers had been fishermen in this village. He was not from a high caste, but he recognised change and knew that he would profit as India opened more and more to the world. He asked why we were here; we did not look like the usual travellers. 'I am writing a book about Anand; have you heard of him, the chess player?' I knew instantly that disappointment was in store again. '*My* name is Anand' he declared, and quickly changed the subject.

After lunch (another feast of delicious prawns) I cycled back to my lodgings. Feeling guilty, I started scanning Vishy's games on ChessBase. My mind wandered back to our conversation when the idea of the book had been mooted. 'Vishy, you'll have to annotate all your games for me, otherwise I'll write some nasty things about you.' 'Why should I bother, Dave, you'll do that anyway.' Anand's games have a certain flow, although this might be because I've seen him play so many so quickly. Occasionally, the smooth flow breaks up, and he loses horribly. Then the flow resumes. Rather immodestly, I played through the two games where he'd lost to me and a mischievous idea struck me. How about handing in a book containing just those two games, annotated in immense depth, combined with an account of a three month holiday in India?

Leaving aside thoughts of Anand, Nick and I had more pressing matters: what to do about dinner? We now had commitments in at least three restaurants, all of which had claimed to have reserved their finest lobsters for us. How would Anand play it?

Go with the flow, of course. We cycled into town, trying to look inconspicuous. The first place we checked out was 'The Seashore', which decided matters. The three German girls dining against the sunset convinced me that this was the best place to conduct Anand research.

As the evening wore on, the place became very jovial. More westerners arrived and it became clear that this was a travellers' haunt. These carefree youngsters tour for months around the Indian peninsular, living from hand to mouth. They looked stunned when I started buying them beers. Then an Indian party arrived and sat at the table opposite. They were well-dressed, drank beer and exuded an air of superiority over the waiters. The most imperialistic behaviour I have witnessed has been by Indians over Indians. They were amicable enough to me, and eagerly engaged in conversation when they discovered that I worked in finance.

They were buying development land in the area around Mahaballipuram, which had great potential as a tourist area, especially when Madras and Hyderabad became established as the major commercial cities. Indian businessmen are always looking for western partners, who need them because only Indians have the right to own land. Somewhat tiredly, I steered the conversation towards chess. 'Have you heard of Anand?' They looked at me as if I was mad. 'Of course, he is one of the world's finest players; he will challenge Kasparov soon for the title.'

I explained about my book and my failure to find anyone who had heard of him. 'These are not educated people. The common people will know the names of all the cricketers; now they know most of the film stars. But chess is not a popular sport among the masses.'

This comment depressed me; it also seemed contrary to what I'd seen with my own eyes in Calcutta. I'd had visions of chess being played in every tiny Indian village, with even the most lowly untouchable tracking Anand's progress against Gazza. Even in India, the home of chess, the game has yet to claim its inheritance.

Dejected, I turned to chat up the German girls. 'I'm writing a book about Anand ... he's a very famous chess player ... yes, I play chess ... no, it's quite exciting actually ... chess is very popular in

Germany you know ... I should know because I'm in a Bundesliga team ... and they even fly me out and pay me money to play.' At this point our chess-playing helper from the other night had joined the party. He decided it was time to challenge me to a chess game; he was sure he would win.

Fortified by the beer, I declared that there was probably only one person in the whole of India who could beat me, and that was Anand. I said we would play tomorrow and offered him a $1000 if he won. Everyone assumed I was drunk. When the next day came I suddenly imagined that I'd stumbled on a rare genius, but his opening moves reassured me. 'You are a good player.' he conceded as he lost his second rook.

It was too hot to analyse chess in my room, so I decided to take my laptop to The Village Inn. By the time I'd explained what my computer was to a dozen inquisitive Indians, my battery started bleeping. It was a relief to hear they had a power point that worked. I plugged it in and opted for a lunch break. The Indians were still crowded round the computer. They were growing increasingly concerned about the computer heating up. 'Master, your computer get very hot.' I explained that was normal, but it did not allay their worries. Then the owner pointed to my mouse, which had PACKARD BELL printed on it, and suddenly their fears subsided. He wandered over to where I was eating. 'Very clever. I see that you attach a bell to the computer so that you know when it is becoming too hot.'

After seven days of restaurant alternation, we decided that life was becoming just too idyllic. Besides, we had only three days left, and we were no closer to any serious interviews on our hero. I telephoned his father again. His niece's operation had been a success and Mr. Anand consented to see me on Thursday; I was to call at his home at 4.30 pm. It was Wednesday afternoon. I suddenly felt a sense of panic that soon the trials and tribulations of the real world would be upon me again. In truth, I had absolutely no desire to return to England.

Still, we had one last night, and we decided to end our sojourn where it had begun: The Village Inn. The owner seemed particularly impressed with my training shoes. They were slightly small for me, so I was happy to start bargaining. He had little money,

but he did have a bucket of delicious-looking crabs. 'Crabs! For my shoes. These are very fine leather, cost very much money where I come from.' I was happy to play the part of the offended shopkeeper. He offered some prawns as well. 'Throw in a beer and they're yours.'

The owner brought the beer and struck up his usual polite conversation. 'When is it that you are leaving.' 'Tomorrow morning.' He looked like he'd just been stung by a scorpion. 'Oh, God'. It's surprising how a few good meals can stimulate the local economy. The final party was quite an occasion. Nick and I noticed that our entourage had grown somewhat. Just as well we were leaving; India is cheap but at this rate we would end up poorer than a rickshaw wallah.

The owner ordered our taxi, just as he sorted out all other problems as part of the service. This time it cost 600 rupees. It arrived at 9 am, but it was 11 am before we had finished our 'bye, bye' breakfast at the Inn. The whole extended family had arrived to wish us *bon voyage*. With some reluctance I got inside the Ambassador. For a while we were stuck behind a cow, but then we overtook it on the inside and sped towards Madras.

3 At Home, with Mr. and Mrs. 'Anand'

The only hotel that I know in Madras is the Connemara. It is a fine colonial building and I recalled that there was a garden with a particularly beautiful tree. As our taxi drew up to the entrance, my heart sank. The whole place looked more like a building site than a bastion of imperial splendour. At the reception I was assured that the renovations would not affect the wing where I'd be staying. Nor could the noise be heard at the swimming pool or restaurant area.

We didn't have the heart to start searching elsewhere, and our appointment with Anand's father was in a couple of hours. I suggested that $160 a night was perhaps a little steep for a building currently undergoing repair. The well-dressed Indian receptionist replied with a smile. 'Your are lucky, Sir, when the renovations are complete the prices will go up a lot.' Take me back to Mahaballipuram where I can be outraged at paying $5 for a lobster.

We took a taxi to the suburb where Anand lived, with tape and Dictaphone in pocket. Nick had pen and paper just in case exception was taken to the recording. We spent quite a bit of time trying to find the house. When passers-by looked blank at the mention of the street name, I tried saying 'home of Anand.' Finally, the taxi drew up at a house with the label: 'Viswanathan'. Suddenly, the rupee dropped. I remembered that years ago somebody had mentioned that Anand is actually the 'first' name. Viswanathan is the family name.

Anand's father is a man of distinguished appearance. When I had seen him before in Calcutta he was dressed in trousers, shirt and tie. At home he is casually dressed in Indian attire. He moves confidently, shakes both our hands and introduces us to his wife. As soon as we are seated, I apologise for my confusion with their names and ask him to explain the muddle. He shows neither enthusiasm nor impatience, but begins as if it is only natural that he should be the one explaining.

'Viswanathan is the family name. Anand is not my name but the name of my son. In India the difference was understood but when he began to play abroad, they were writing his name as V. Anand. This is fine for Anand because Anand is his name. Then everyone started calling him Vishy, as if it was his first name. Anand seems to have grown fond of the name Vishy. When I was in Germany though, the hotel list had my name as Mr. Anand – that is certainly not my name.' He smiles at this. He is obviously very proud of his son, and there are worse insults than being given the name of one of the world's most famous chess players.

I gaze around the family home. It is quite beautiful in a restrained Indian style. Almost incongruously, memorabilia of Anand's chess career, photos, trophies and certificates, line walls and shelves. In several interviews Anand has stated that Madras is his home, a place where he can relax. It is clear that these are not just words of a dutiful son. The whole house exudes an air of tranquillity; it is hard to believe that we are near the heart of one of Asia's most bustling cities.

Anand's father had something to do with railways; I've known this for many years. In his interview with Cathy Forbes, Vishy states, 'My father worked on the railways.' Was he a signalman, or a ticket inspector? Albert Toby's interview with Anand back in 1988 elevates him somewhat as 'retired Chief Mechanical Engineer in the Southern Railways.' Mr. Viswanathan (as I shall from now on call him) leaves us in no doubt that he was an important man. 'I was responsible for 50,000 employees.' Indian Railways is the world's largest employer.

At this point we are offered refreshment: a lassi. We both opt for salted rather than sweet. Mrs. Viswanathan goes off to prepare it. Her husband is now talking freely. I decide that it is time to ask whether he minds the Dictaphone. He hesitates and I'm embarrassed that he is about to say no. Instead, he shrugs amiably and continues talking.

I steer the conversation away from chess, knowing that we will return to it later. Besides he is clearly a mine of information and I have many questions to ask on India. Though I know the answer, I ask about his religion.

'I, and my family, are Hindus.' *'Strict Hindus?'* 'It depends what you mean. My family do not tend

to eat meat, although in the past I have eaten meat. My wife is a more pure vegetarian, but Anand has eaten meat. I do not drink alcohol and neither does Anand. We have travelled extensively abroad and see many good things in the west. But we have our own culture, and many of our values are superior to western culture. In this sense we are not strict because we are open to foreign ideas. I believe that this is also the way forward for India. We must accept foreign ideas but not lose our own identity.'

His calm face does not become excited, even though he is saying some prophetic words. I find myself hanging on his every word, as if in the presence of a guru. To break the spell, I try to draw him into a less comfortable topic.

'What caste are you?' 'A Brahmin.'

'Isn't that the highest caste?' Again, I am being rhetorical, but he isn't drawn.

'The Brahmin is the priestly caste. There are other castes, such as the warrior caste. Officially the caste system is out, and attitudes have changed a great deal. Many westerners focus on the problem of the caste system, but they do not see that changes take time. India is a very young country and in the last fifty years it has come a long way.'

'Are you optimistic then for India's prospects?'

'Yes, if you look at other countries you can see that India is developing very well. Many African countries became free from the Empire at the same time as India and they are in a very bad state.' Having spent time in Nigeria, I can attest to this. India is poor but the system somehow functions; Nigeria is poor and nothing works. 'Now you see all the problems with the former Soviet countries. India is coping with change much better than they are.

'When foreign countries look at the problems in India, they do not see that it is a very large country, with many different peoples and religions. There are many possible problems. But I feel that with patience India will move forward as a country.'

I am fascinated by his speech, the combination of vision and rationality. We are all so used to headlines that scream about misery and violence. He turns the problem on its head, and sees the whole process in a sanguine, evolutionary light. What do I know of India? Every year I spend a few weeks there and get a

snapshot view, but I've never tried to build a coherent framework. India is changing, and it is because change is so subtle that it is more likely to be effective. I noticed that the telephone line was clearer when I rang Madras, I also noticed that there are fewer lepers on the streets of Calcutta. Never before have I imagined a cumulative force at work.

Retreating from his philosophical musings, he returns to pleasantries. He asks about my trip so far to India. I explain that most of it was spent in Mahabalipuram, relaxing by the sea, and of course sampling the seafood.

'Yes,' he says, 'it is well known that the seafood is good in Mahaballipuram. Lobsters and prawns. It is not possible to get crabs.'

Nick immediately ventured that we had, in fact, enjoyed several crabs the night before.

'They cannot have been from the area. Maybe they were imported.'

I stated that this was unlikely as one had tried to nip me about an hour before I ate it.

'Well, I suppose they must have been very small.'

On the contrary, they were very large and probably the finest crabs we'd ever tasted. Whatever his vegetarian vows, I would almost swear that he was on the verge of upping off to the seaside there and then. It seemed like time to get onto the chess.

'So you must be excited about the forthcoming match?' 'Yes my wife and I are excited, but we are also a little nervous. After all, it is a very big moment for us all.'

'And Vishy? He must be nervous, but obviously looking forward to the match.' 'Of course, he is working very hard at the moment. He has great respect for his opponent but he will do his best.'

'So he won't be calling Kasparov names like a hairy ape?' He chuckles, clearly familiar with Short's comments before the 1993 match. 'No. I think he has quite good relations with Kasparov. I do not think that there is any animosity between them.'

He decides to expand on this. 'One of Anand's good characteristics is that he does not speak badly of anyone. He has a kind word to say about most people and considers most of the best players to be friends. I think that if he did dislike someone, all he would do is try to avoid them, and not speak about them at all rather than say bad things about them.'

This is without doubt. There is plenty of bitchiness in the chess world but Vishy has never got involved. I remember the Short-Kasparov breakaway and the formation of the PCA. As President of the Grandmasters Association (GMA), Anand might have been expected to join the tirade of name-calling. He kept a very level head throughout the whole affair, and presented some rational arguments. Maybe Nigel did make a mistake in pulling out of FIDE, and, yes, there is a mercenary tinge to the whole thing, but let's not be hypocritical. Chess is not a rich sport and we all want to make some money when we can. His policy of 'wait and see' looked wimpish at first, but it is the one most grandmasters ended up following.

I deided to return to basics. *'How did Anand start playing chess? The first time I saw him was in London in 1984.'*

'Yes, it was the Lloyds Bank Masters; I believe that he beat you in that tournament.' I mean, that was more than ten years ago and the guy wasn't even there! 'It was my wife who taught him to play chess when he was 5 or 6; she played a lot when she was younger.

'As soon as he discovered chess, he loved the game. He wanted to play all the time.'

I interrupt his reminiscing. *'Yes, but I also loved playing when I was young. But I never could study. My parents were always encouraging me to read a chess book and I always refused – this hasn't really changed. My impression is that Anand loves to study chess; was this always the case?'*

'Even as a boy he loved his chess magazine. My wife and I would hope that the post would not arrive while we were having our meal because Anand would just abandon his food. I recall when I was stationed as railway consultant in the Philippines in 1978. There used to be chess puzzles on television every day. Anand would love to watch TV and solve the puzzles. I think he won so many prizes that they stopped him entering.'

'The Philippines must have happy memories for Vishy. I was there in 1987 when he won the World Junior.'

'Winning the World Junior was probably *the* most important break for Anand. It is also interesting that he won ahead of so many players like Ivanchuk and Piket who are still his rivals today.'

'And his memory? This is the most amazing thing about Anand. He can remember everything. Once when we were playing in a tournament he quoted a game that I'd played about five years ago. I can't even remember a game that that I played last week.'

'Yes, my son has a remarkable memory. Especially in chess, but also in other subjects. I think he used his memory to get through school. He was always away playing chess so he had little time to study, but his memory helped. When he gained his degree in commerce, I think he had less than a year for this study also.'

'Yes, Vishy has a degree, I almost forgot. Of all the top players he seems the most well-rounded. He's as happy discussing an article in The Economist *as he is the latest novelty in the Sicilian Najdorf.'* I suddenly realise that I'm starting to sound sycophantic, but with Anand there is a lot to admire and little to criticise.

'Anand has a great interest in economics. A magazine like *The Economist* he can read cover to cover.'

I decide to try fishing again. *'In some ways a figure such as Anand is wasted in chess. OK, so he becomes World Champion, perhaps then he should retire. India could use someone like Anand, high profile and intelligent. Do you think he would ever consider a career in politics?'*

He doesn't dismiss the idea as ridiculous; why should he? If Third World countries had a few leaders like Vishy, then the UN could take a few more vacations. I've put this idea to Anand in the past, and he dismissed it for the same reason as his father does now.

'Politics in this country are very volatile. I am not sure that Anand has the personality to be a politician.'

True. There is a tendency for Indian leaders to come to a sticky end, and losing Vishy would be a blow. *'Still, if things are improving, maybe it will be possible one day...'*

'Maybe', he concludes, sounding very unconvinced.

'To be truthful, I would have given Anand very little chance against Kasparov before his second match with Kamsky. But in that match Anand played brilliantly, as if he had solved so many fundamental problems with his chess.'

'Yes. I think he has learned a lot since his first match with

Kamsky. But I think there were other factors for his loss in Sanghi Nagar. He was leading by two games and I think this combined with the pressure of playing in India was just too much. Playing in front of a home crowd can have its advantages but I think that all the attention diverted his mind from the chess. He was much happier playing in Las Palmas, and I think it is a relief that he will play the final in Germany rather than India.'

(*Editor's note:* Since this interview took place, the venue for the match has been changed to New York).

'He certainly seemed much more in control in Las Palmas. In some ways, though, it is quite tragic that he isn't playing the final in India. After all, it is the first time an Asian player has challenged for the World Championship, and it would do so much good for chess in this country.'

'Of course, Anand is very keen to promote chess in India. But at this point he has to devote all his energy to his match. If he were to win, it might then be possible to have a match in India.'

'Chess has become much more popular in India. There are more tournaments, more players...'

'That is all due to Anand. He has made the game much more popular. And when he plays against Kasparov it will become more popular still.'

I omit to mention my experiences in Mahaballipuram and the search for somebody who'd heard of him. As if sensing my thoughts, he continues...

'It takes time for a sport to become popular. It is still not like cricket, but ten years ago chess was not played by a great many people. More and more people are starting to play the game. It will obviously help if Anand continues to do well.'

'I said that I thought Anand had improved his game a great deal. He also seems to have a strong team of seconds led by Artur Yusupov and Mark Dvoretsky. Kasparov, on the other hand, has been showing that he can go wrong. He also has not had much experience in match play recently. My own view is that Vishy has a reasonable chance.'

Mr. Viswanathan hesitates, not wanting to be drawn. 'I think he has improved and so has his self-confidence. He also has a very good team who he works with very well. But Kasparov is a very strong player. We can only hope...'

4 Early Years

Most grandmasters start to play chess when they are very young, five or six years old, and Vishy was no exception. Madras, India, might not seem like the ideal place to start a chess career, but there are advantages. If you shine at chess in a third world country, then opportunities will arise. Niaz Murshed, who grew up in neighbouring Bangladesh, was also a very talented junior, winning the strong Oakham Junior International in 1984. He was such a novelty in his poverty-stricken country that he became something of a national hero, with many opportunities to play in foreign tournaments. Niaz still has some outstanding results, but he has not fulfilled his early promise.

Twenty years ago chess was not popular in India, but it was not entirely without a chess culture. Manuel Aaron became India's first IM in 1961 and for many years was Secretary of the All-Indian Chess Federation. Ravikumar became the second IM in 1978. Both these players are from Vishy's home town Madras, and both are chess promoters in the general sense. So when Vishy was growing up, there was already a vibrant chess community on his doorstep.

It is not unusual for chess to develop in this way. Whatever support is given from above, the best way for chess to flourish is competition. I was born in Bolton, Lancashire, a small town in northern England. At six I went to my chess club for the first time and received a thrashing from a nine-year-old; his name was Nigel Short. He soon became Britain's youngest ever IM, and I became the second youngest in 1985. I do not believe this is coincidence.

Pre-Glasnost, India retained very strong links with the Soviet Union. In Calcutta, the Alekhine Chess Club is held at the Soviet cultural centre. Chess is one activity that the Soviets were ready to encourage anywhere in the world. In Madras there was a Mikhail Tal Chess Club, also supported by the Soviet cultural embassy, which provided chess sets and equipment. Vishy mentions that they would all play there most days, but people got

bored with slow chess, so they would have blitz competitions around one board – a kind of winner-stays-on. He doesn't tell all; his father explained that the problem was when Anand sat down, nobody could beat him. So he would stay there all day.

By 1983, Anand was already making a name for himself. He won the National Junior Championships, and finished fourth in the Indian Championships. I think it is fair to say that at this point his international career took off. The following year he visited London to play in the Lloyds Bank Masters. For many years this was one of the biggest open tournaments in Europe. It was also the place where young players went to make their fortune by earning a FIDE rating or even an international master norm...

I remember Lloyds Bank 1984 very well, because it was my first break in international chess. I dashed to 4/5 and then lost to the English Grandmaster Murray Chandler – no disgrace there. The next morning I called to hear my pairing: Norwood-Anand. Never heard of him, I thought to myself. 'Watch him, he's the little Indian kid,' a friend warned me, 'but I think he's quite good.' I'm now in the big league and I don't expect to lose to kids.

Vishy still giggles about how I remained indignant throughout the post-mortem. It was a happy ending for both of us. He got his IM norm and I got mine. If only our careers could have continued like that.

It was in the following year though that Anand really made his mark at Lloyds Bank. He was paired against English Grandmaster Jonathan Mestel. Vishy had never beaten a grandmaster.

Anand-Mestel

Lloyds Bank Masters, London 1985

Sicilian Dragon

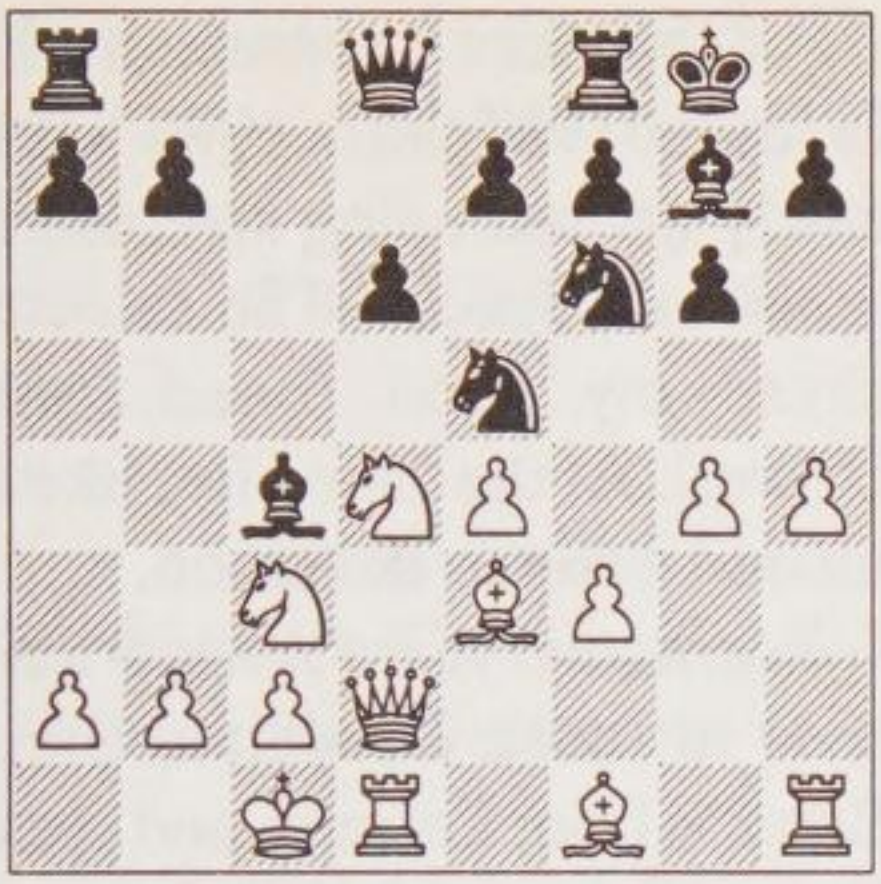
1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**d6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
5	**♘c3**	**g6**
6	**♗e3**	**♗g7**
7	**f3**	**0-0**
8	**♕d2**	**♘c6**

9 g4

The 15-year-old Indian takes on Mestel's favourite Dragon Variation of the Sicilian Defence by playing the ultra-sharp Yugoslav Attack. Even aged 15, Anand was not afraid of a challenge.

9 ... ♗e6

10 0-0-0 ♘e5
11 h4 ♗c4 *(D)*



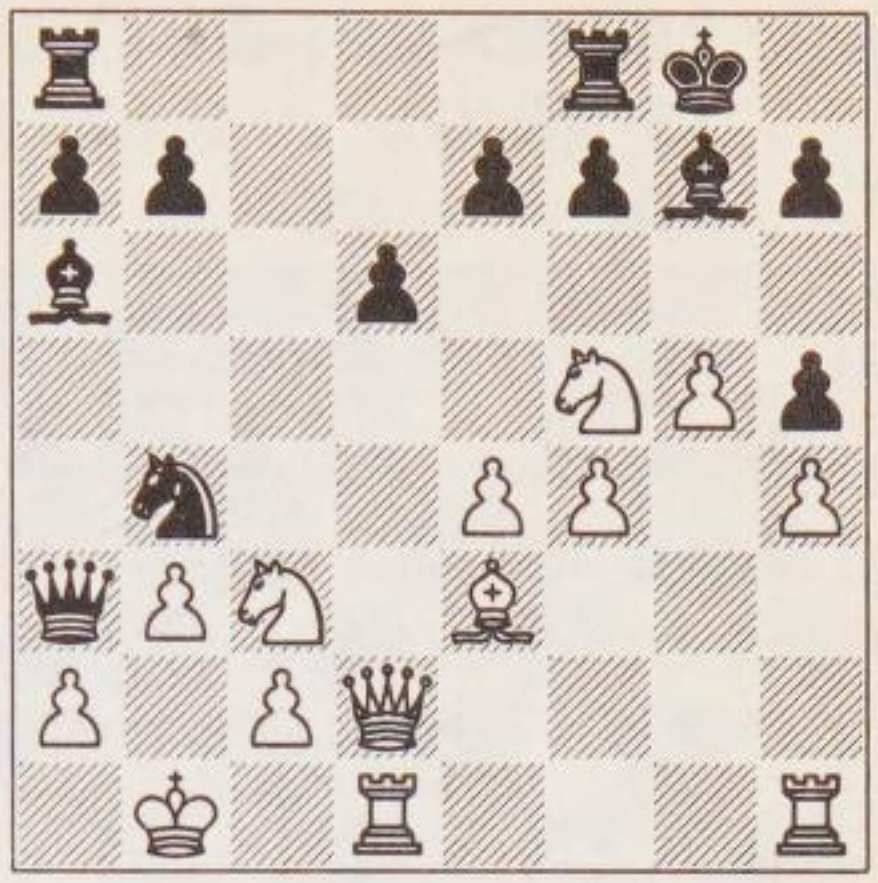
W

Mestel wants the c4-square for his knight, so he first tries to remove White's bishop on f1. Here 12 ♗xc4 would play straight into Black's hands, so Anand moves his bishop to prevent it from being exchanged.

12 ♗h3 ♗a6

Threatening 13...♘c4. If Black can exchange the knight for White's dark-squared bishop then White's attack will come to a standstill and Black's unchallenged bishop on g7 will reign supreme.

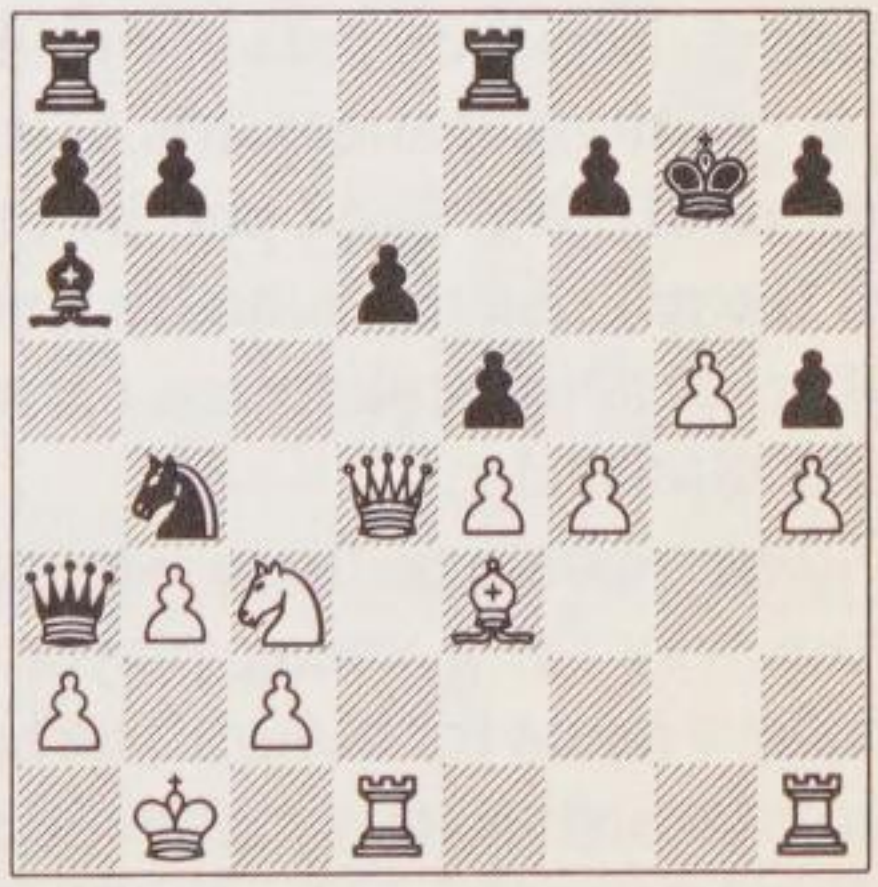
13 b3 ♕a5
14 ♔b1 ♕a3
15 g5 ♘h5
16 f4 ♘c6
17 ♗g4 ♘b4
18 ♗xh5 gxh5
19 ♘f5 *(D)*



B

Mestel may have intended 19...♗xc3 20 ♕xc3 ♕xa2+ 21 ♔c1, but here Black has no satisfactory response to the threats of 22 ♘h6 mate and 22 ♕g7 mate. Instead he has nothing better than to than defend the e7-pawn.

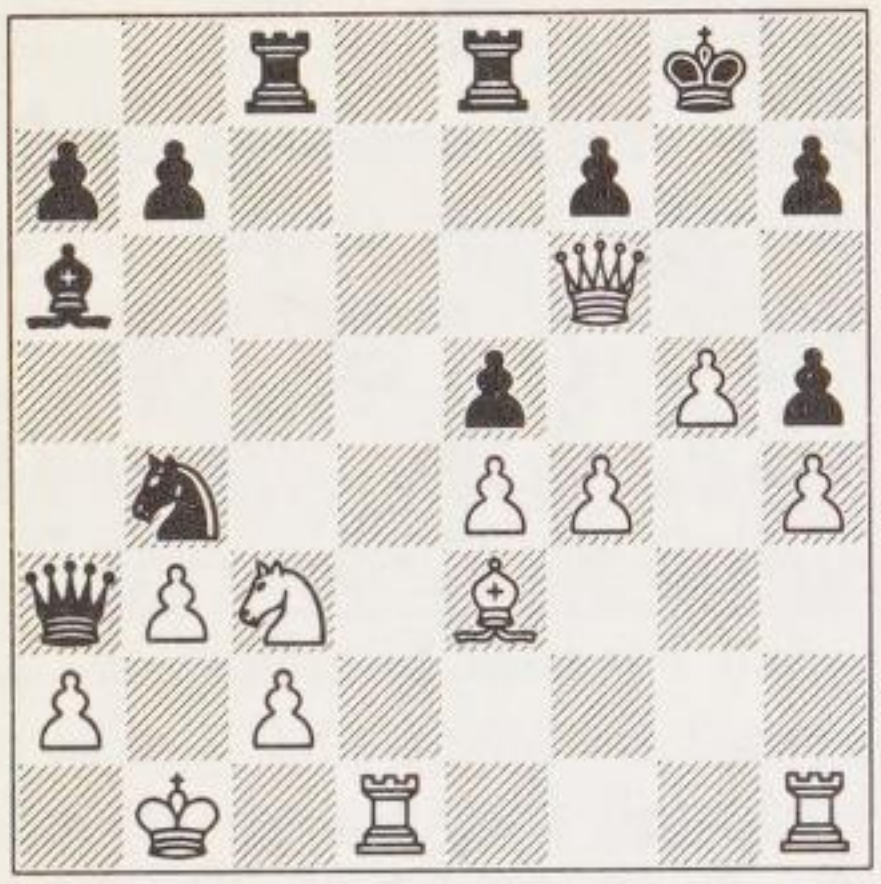
19 ... ♖fe8
20 ♘xg7 ♔xg7
21 ♕d4+ e5 *(D)*



W

22 ♕xd6 ♖ac8
23 ♕f6+ ♔g8

24 ♖d7 ♖f8
25 g6 *(D)*



B

After 25...hxg6 26 ♖g1 the threat is ♖xg6+, so **Mestel resigned**.

This was Anand's first victory against a GM. From my own experience, beating your first GM can be a major breakthrough. Although I built up some formidable positions against GMs, it was not until 1988 that I put the ball in the net. Anand actually came over to congratulate me on my first GM scalp.

Ten years ago there was one sure way for a young player to make a name for himself; he had to win one of the junior titles. Winning the World Junior Championship spelled one out for future greatness. All of the world's best juniors vied with each other to claim a title which had been held by the likes of Karpov and Kasparov. Each country had the right to select a representative. In both 1985 and 1986 I narrowly missed being selected for the World Junior. The selectors chose my good friend James Howell. At the time I felt like I'd missed a trip to the moon.

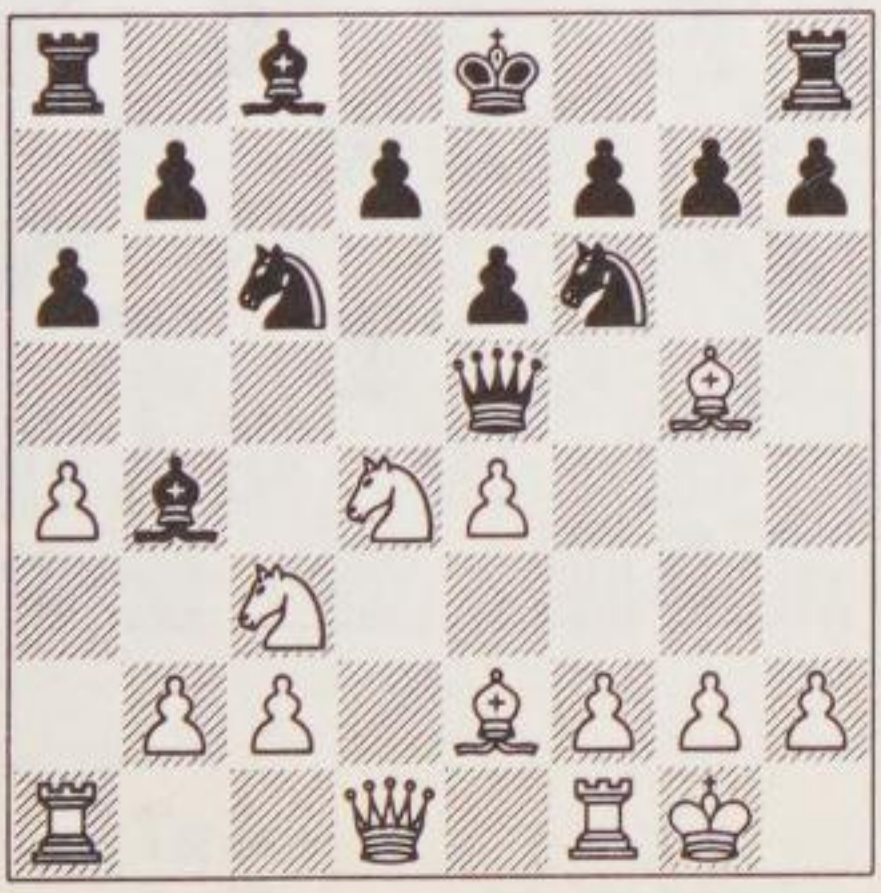
For many years Anand had a rival in India: Dibyendu Barua. Barua is from Calcutta, and speaks Bengali. Anand is a Tamil, so if they wish to converse, it has to be in English. Barua is older than Anand, but for many years he was seen as a promising prodigy; he qualified for the national championship when he was just 12. He was not so far behind Anand in becoming India's second grandmaster.

In terms of commitment to chess they are worlds apart. Anand fuels his talent with hard work and determination. Barua gets his openings muddled in the first few moves. Bengalis are renowned for being lazy and Calcutta is the most chaotic place in India. Barua is a Buddhist and does not seem to get perturbed by anything. I could not imagine such a player coasting through the cut-and-thrust World Candidates Cycle.

On his day, though, he can be deadly, as Anand found to his cost when they met during the World Junior in Gausdal. This was Anand's only loss in the 1986 event, and cost him any chance he had of winning the tournament.

Barua-Anand
World Junior Ch, Gausdal 1986
Sicilian Taimanov

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**e6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘c6**
5	**♘c3**	**a6**
6	**♗e2**	**♕c7**
7	**a4**	**♘f6**
8	**0-0**	**♗b4**
9	**♗g5**	**♕e5** *(D)*



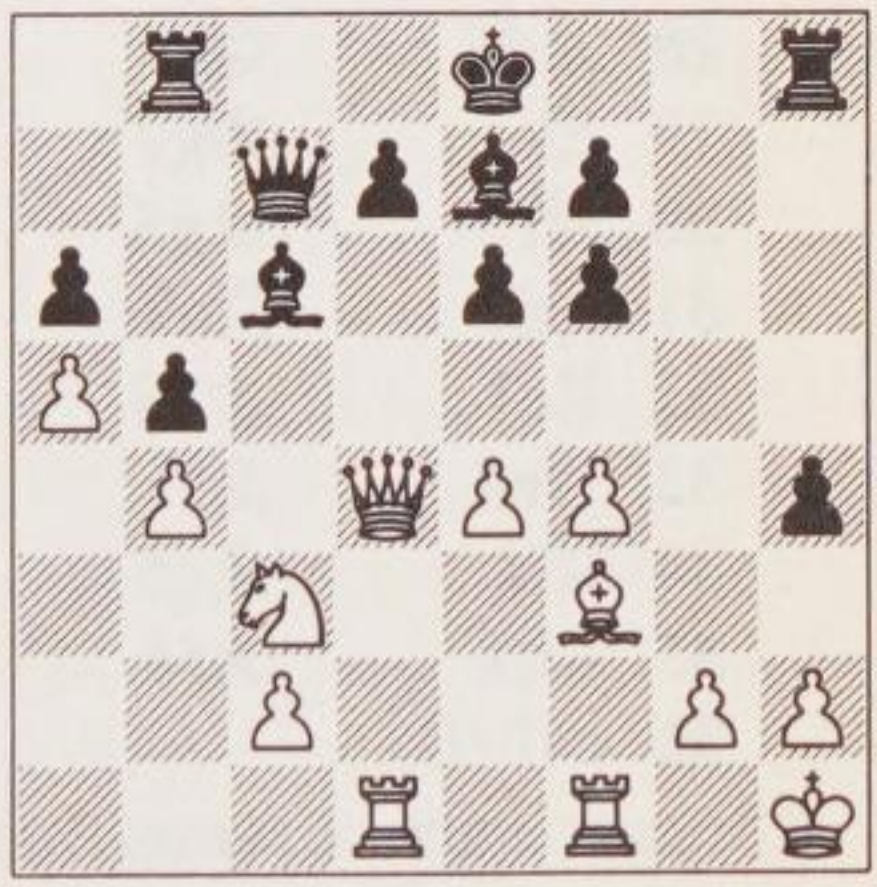
W

This is a fairly standard position, but after 9...♕e5 the queen gets kicked around, so I prefer 9...♗xc3.

10	**♘f3**	**♕a5**
11	**♗xf6**	**gxf6**
12	**♘d2**	**♕c7**

It is too late now for Black to take on c3 since he needs his bishop to cover the d6-square, for example 12...♗xc3 13 ♘c4!.

13	**♘c4**	**♘e5**
14	**♘xe5**	**♕xe5**
15	**♕d3**	**h5**
16	**f4**	**♕c7**
17	**♔h1**	**♗e7**
18	**a5**	**h4**
19	**♕d4**	**♖b8**
20	**b4**	**b5**
21	**♖ad1**	**♗b7**
22	**♗f3**	**♗c6** *(D)*



W

Barua has steadily improved his position and now employs a well-known tactic to open a file in the centre.

23	**♘d5!**	**♗xd5**

After 23...exd5? 24 exd5 White wins back his piece (24...♗b7 25 d6) and Black's pawns are left shattered.

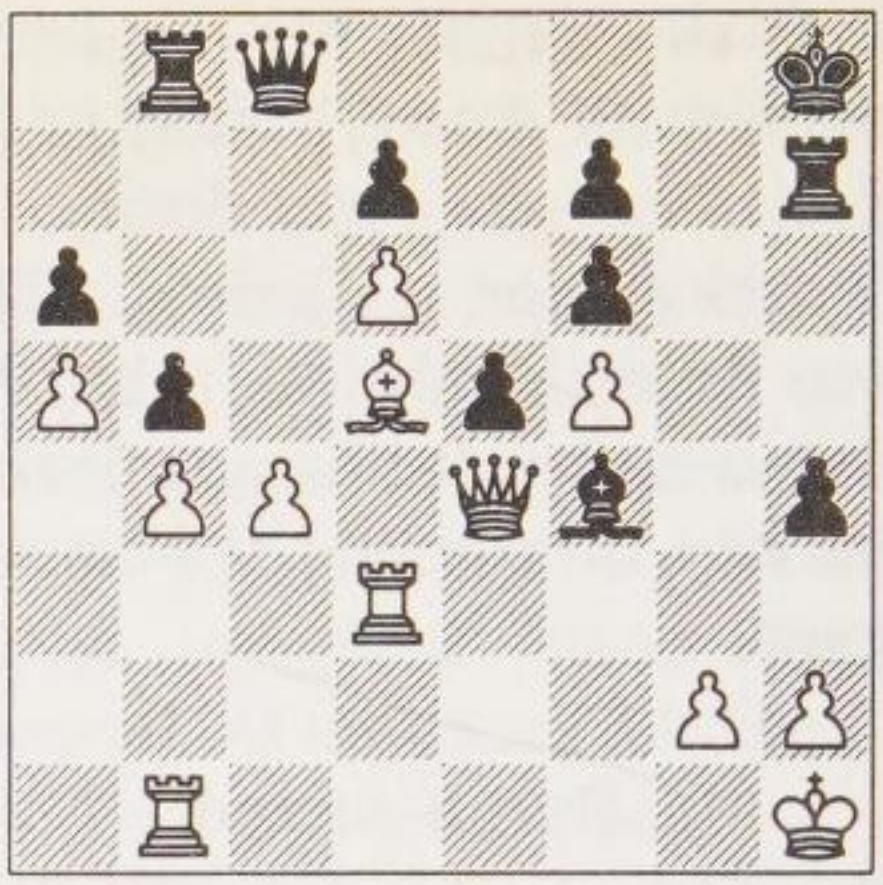
24 exd5 ♕c8
25 d6 ♗f8
26 f5!

Barua could win a pawn with 26 ♕xf6 but this may eventually allow the black bishop to become active along the h8-a1 diagonal. Instead he slowly builds up the tension and keeps Black's bishop shut in.

26 ... e5
27 ♕d3 ♗h6

The bishop seems to have found some activity but in fact it has nowhere to go along this diagonal.

28 ♗d5 ♔f8
29 c3 ♔g7
30 ♕f3 ♗g5
31 ♖d3 ♖h7
32 ♖e1 ♔h8
33 ♕e4 ♗f4
34 ♖f1 ♗g5
35 ♖b1 ♗f4
36 c4! *(D)*

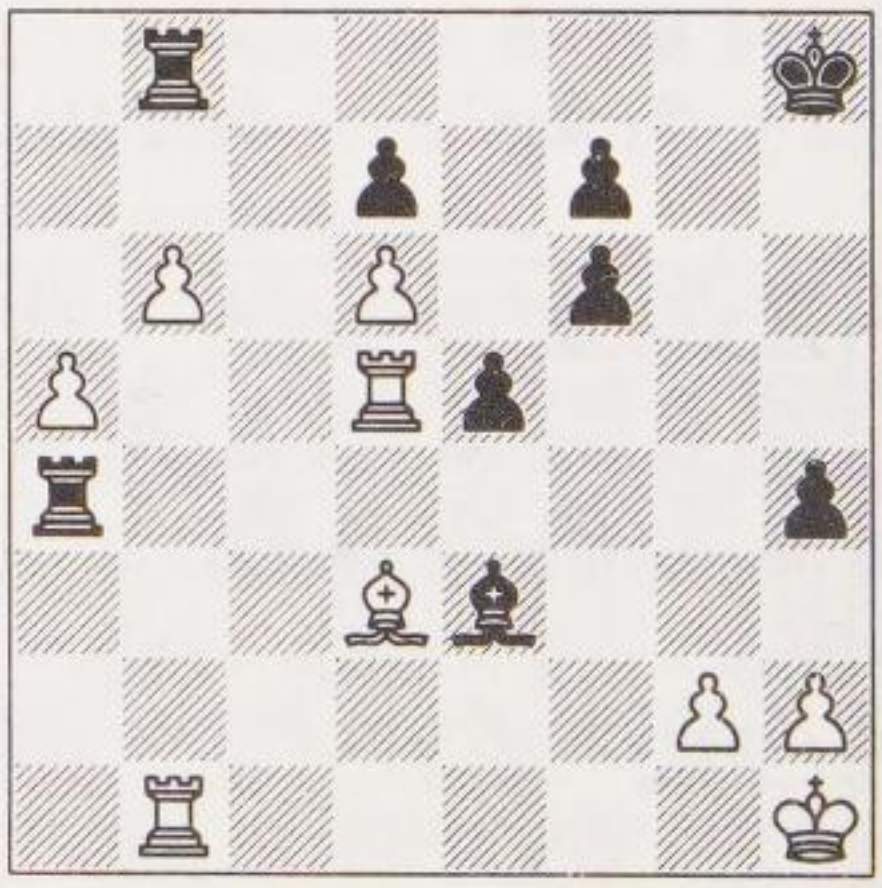


B

After some manoeuvring Barua makes the decisive break on the queenside, forcing a passed pawn which Anand's disjointed forces will not be able to deal with.

36 ... bxc4
37 ♕xc4 ♕xc4
38 ♗xc4 ♖h5
39 ♗xa6 ♖xf5
40 ♖d5! ♗e3
41 ♗d3 ♖f4
42 b5 ♖a4
43 b6 *(D)*

The pawns are now unstoppable.



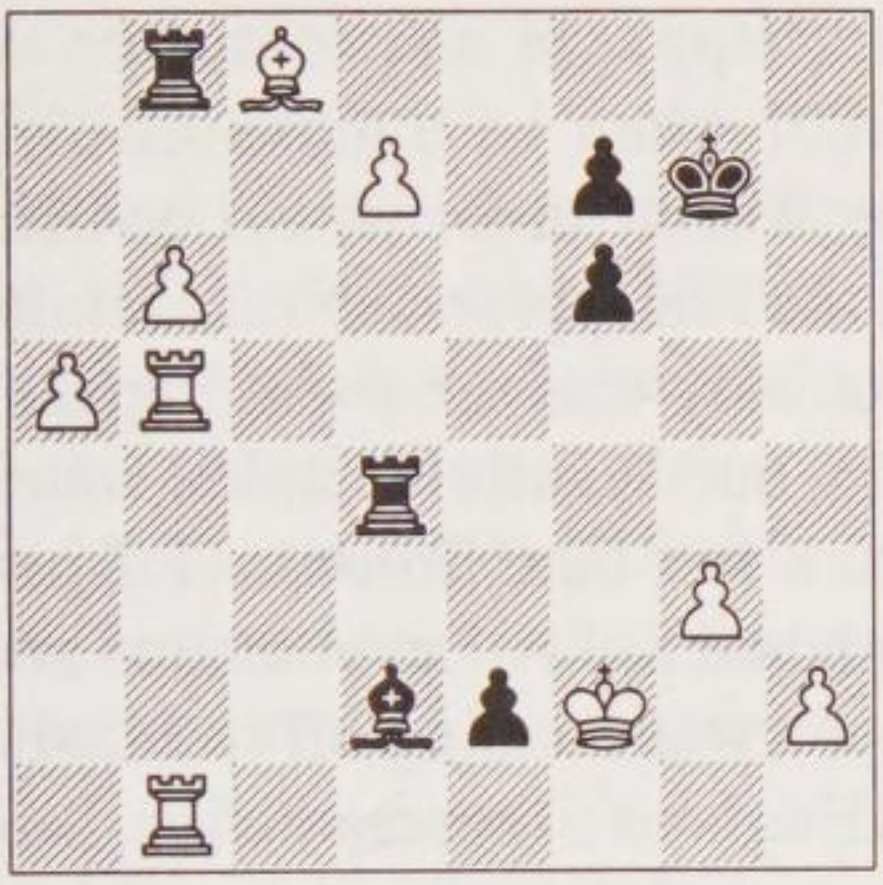
B

43 ... ♔g7
44 ♗f5 ♖b7
45 ♖db5 e4
46 g3 h3
47 ♗xh3 ♗d2

48	**♗xd7!**	**e3**

48...♖xd7 49 b7.

49	**♗c8**	**♖b8**
50	**d7**	**♖d4**
51	**♔g2**	**e2**
52	**♔f2** *(D)*	



B

After 52...e1♕ 53 ♖xe1 ♗xe1+ 54 ♔xe1 the poor black rooks will be no match for Barua's army of passed pawns, so **Anand resigned**.

In 1986, Anand played in his first grandmaster tournament. For most young players this is a traumatic experience. My first was in the Soviet Union, where I drew 4, lost 7 and won 0. Anand was rather more impressive. He needed to win with Black in the final round to gain the grandmaster norm; he only managed to draw. As Vishy said; 'I couldn't force matters so easily in those days.'

5 Junior Champion of the World

In the early summer of 1987, many eager young chess players around the globe were wondering where they would end up playing the World Junior Championship. It was scheduled for Toronto but it soon became clear that the city wasn't able to raise the money to host it. FIDE President, Florencio Campomanes decided to take charge of the situation. After all, it would be unthinkable not to have a World Junior Championship.

Mr. Campomanes, or Campo, has been one of the most controversial figures on the chess scene for more than a decade. His enemies claim he is a mafioso who was closely linked to the regime of Philippine dictator, Ferdinand Marcos. His supporters point to the chess explosion throughout the world during his tenure in office. One thing is for sure; he gets things done. He seems to have an uncanny ability of extracting money from individuals. Allegedly, he once boasted that if he asked Marcos for a million dollars, the ex-President would only wonder whether he wanted a cheque or cash.

Whatever nasty things are said about him now, the fact is that Campo made many young people happy in that summer of 1987, when he announced that the World Junior would be held in the Philippine capital Manila. Not only was the event happening, but Manila sounded much more fun than Toronto. I'd just finished my A-Level exams and now I was heading off to Manila as England's representative. Life was exciting.

It is interesting the way prodigies come and go. In those days Anand was already seen as a talent, but he was just one of many, and perhaps inferior to some. Even Ivanchuk, who turned up in the Philippines, had only just begun to make his mark by winning the European Junior Championship. Ferdinand Hellers, the young Swedish International Master, seemed far more fearsome. Professor (his nickname, since he seemed to know everything about chess theory) Hellers had been the youngest winner of the European Junior and already had a grandmaster norm. Another Scandinavian, Simen Agdestein

of Norway, was a grandmaster and still found time to play professional football. But how do these two compare with Anand and Ivanchuk now?

We all arrived in Manila to a mild disappointment. The tournament would be held in Baguio City in the north, venue to the famous Karpov-Korchnoi match in 1978, rather than Manila. A pity; Manila has a certain pace to it that is appealing to young men. In retrospect it was probably better for our chess that we were whisked away from the metropolis.

After a six hour bus journey during which American Grandmaster Edmar Mednis gave a monologue on chess, life and the universe, we arrived at a hotel which looked somewhat less than the Five-Star accommodation promised. Campo got a roasting at the pre-tournament meeting; 'Why aren't we in the Five-Star hotel down the road?' The President was all smiles; 'Well we wanted to put you in that hotel but unfortunately it has a casino. Being juniors, it would not be correct if we put you in proximity to gambling.' This excuse started to look a bit thin as the tournament wore on: Campo himself was leading frequent expeditions of young chess players to the casino.

Whatever the complaints, the Philippines was great fun. My own highlight was round two when I downed Ivanchuk. Anand rushed to congratulate me but he wasn't exactly cruising himself. After 4 games he had just 2½ points; not the kind of pace to earn a medal. As Vishy puts it; 'After the fourth round I felt that I should start making points.' He then beat Gdanski and Ninov, and in the seventh round he played the pre-tournament favourite, Simen Agdestein.

Anand-Agdestein

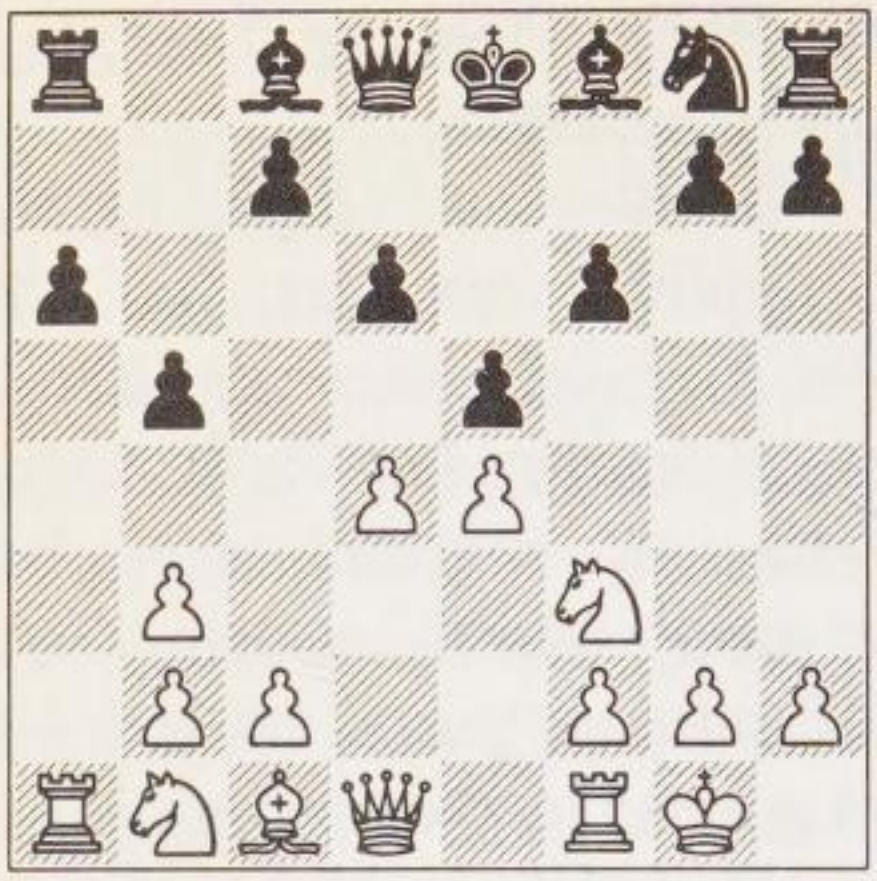
World Junior Ch, Baguio 1987

Spanish, Norwegian

1	**e4**	**♘c6**
2	**♘f3**	**e5**
3	**♗b5**	**a6**
4	**♗a4**	**b5**
5	**♗b3**	**♘a5**

Theory says that it is a little too early for Black to be expanding on the queenside, and in the course of this game Anand shows exactly why this is so; Agdestein falls behind in development and never really catches up.

6	**0-0**	**d6**
7	**d4**	**♘xb3**
8	**axb3**	**f6** *(D)*



W

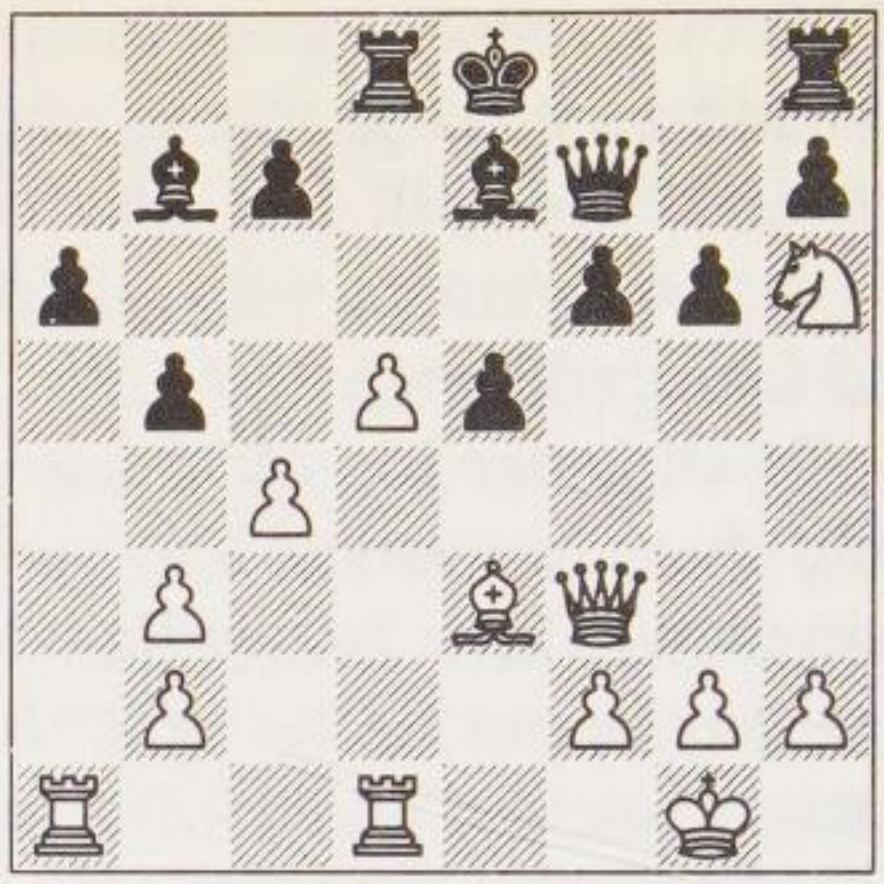
9	**♘c3**	**♗b7**
10	**♘h4**	

Anand must act quickly to capitalise on Black's lack of development. The knight is heading for the aggressive f5-square.

10	**...**	**♘e7**
11	**dxe5**	**dxe5**
12	**♕f3**	**♕d7**
13	**♖d1**	**♕e6**
14	**♘d5**	**♘xd5**
15	**exd5**	**♕f7**
16	**c4**	**♗e7**
17	**♘f5!**	**♖d8**
18	**♗e3**	**g6**
19	**♘h6!** *(D)*	

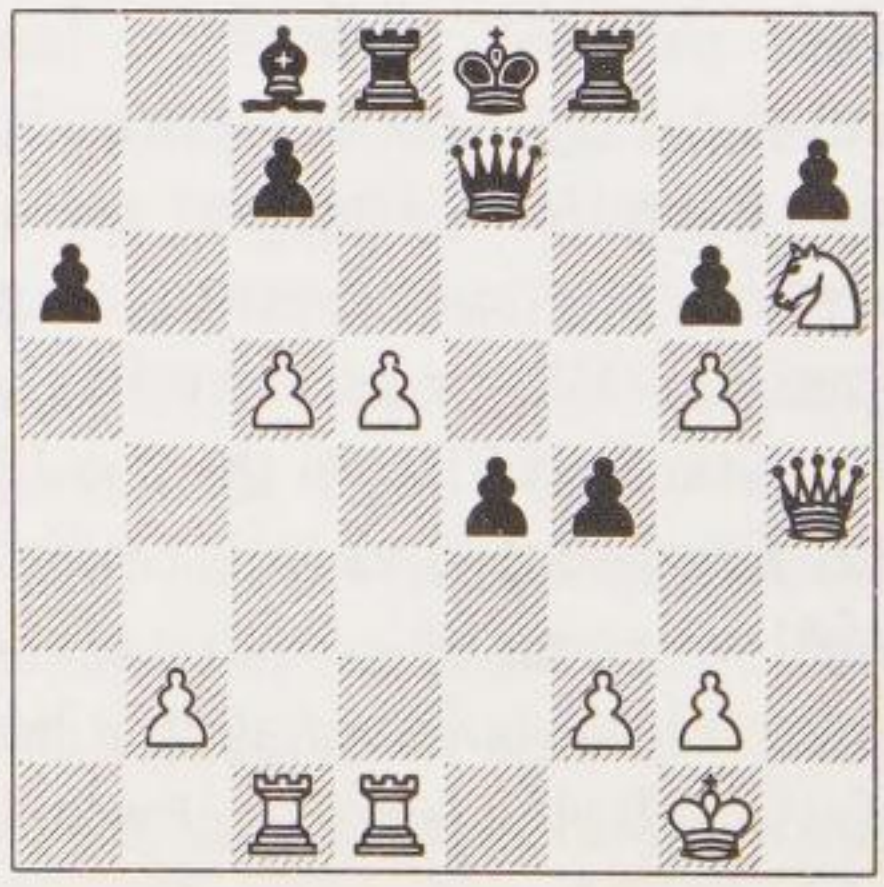
On h6 the knight performs the important task of stopping Black from castling. With his king pinned down in the centre Agdestein cannot advance his central pawns, so finds it hard to create counterplay.

19	**...**	**♕g7**
20	**♕g3**	**♗c8**



B

21	**h4**	**♗d6**
22	**♕f3**	**♗e7**
23	**♖ac1**	**bxc4**
24	**bxc4**	**♖f8**
25	**c5**	**f5**
26	**♗g5**	**♗xg5**
27	**hxg5**	**♕e7**
28	**♕g3**	**f4**
29	**♕h4**	**e4** *(D)*



W

Black has defended well and is now in a position to create some threats with his central pawns.

With time pressure looming large Anand gambles on an immediate central break, but in fact this turns out to be wrong; he should instead be patient.

30 d6?

30 ♖c4, putting pressure on the e4-pawn, was a better idea.

30 ... ♕e5

30...cxd6 31 cxd6 ♖xd6 leaves the bishop on c8 undefended.

31 dxc7 ♖xd1+

32 ♖xd1 e3?

Anand's gamble worked. Agdestein had to take the c-pawn to prevent ♖d8+, after which Black has no problems.

33 ♖d8+ ♔e7

34 ♘g8+

The move that Black missed.

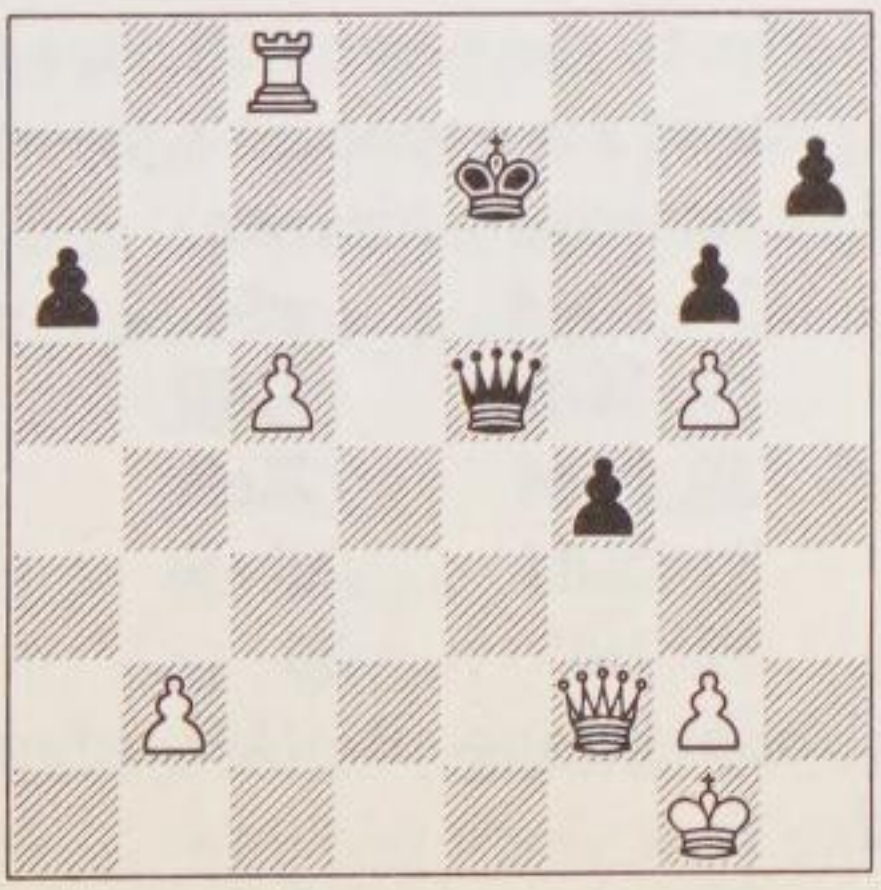
34 ... ♖xg8

35 ♖xg8 ♗e6

36 c8♕ exf2+

37 ♕xf2 ♗xc8

38 ♖xc8 *(D)*



B

Black resigns

Agdestein is a whole rook down and so decides to give up even before the time control at move 40.

Vishy then beat Austrian talent Josef Klinger. Klinger got off to a good start but eventually decided that he would have better luck in the casino. In round 9 came the acid test: Ivanchuk...

Anand-Ivanchuk

World Junior Ch, Baguio 1987

Spanish

1 e4 e5

2 ♘f3 ♘c6

3 ♗b5 a6

4 ♗a4 ♘f6

5 d3

Anand decides to play a quiet variation which involves a slow build-up, rather than the main lines with 5 0-0, since even back in 1987 Ivanchuk was known for his vast theoretical knowledge.

5 ... d6

6 0-0 ♗d7

7 c3 g6

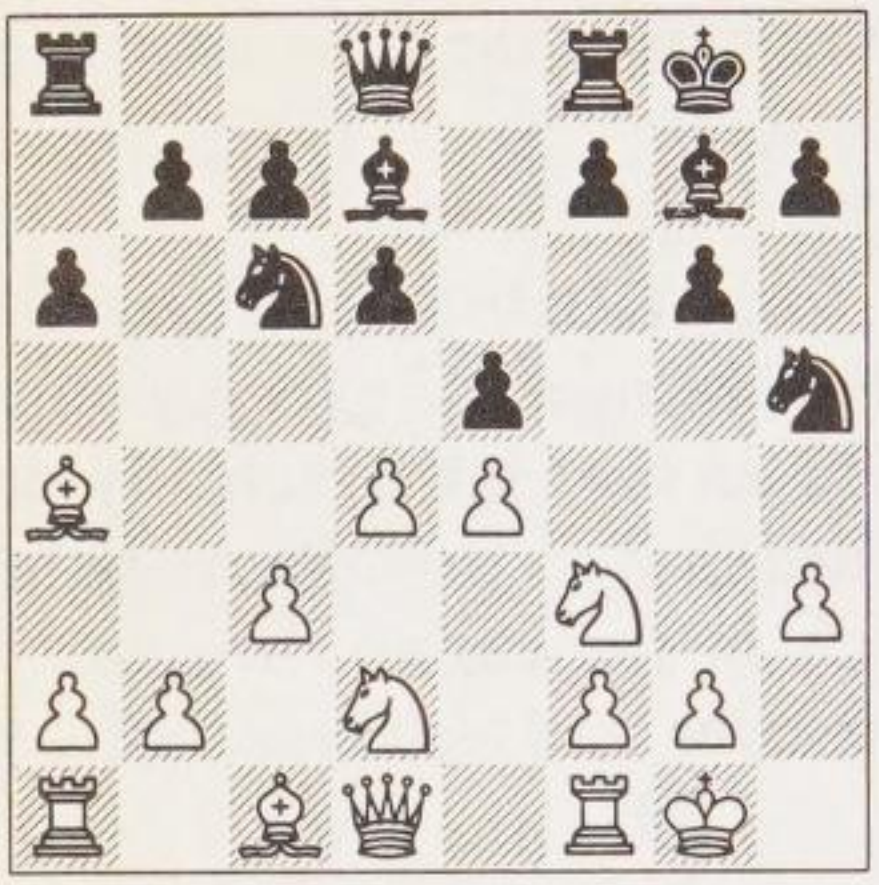
8 ♘bd2 ♗g7

9 d4 0-0

10 h3 ♘h5 *(D)*

The knight is headed for the strong outpost on f4 from where it can instigate an attack on the

white king. Anand counters by opening up the centre.



W

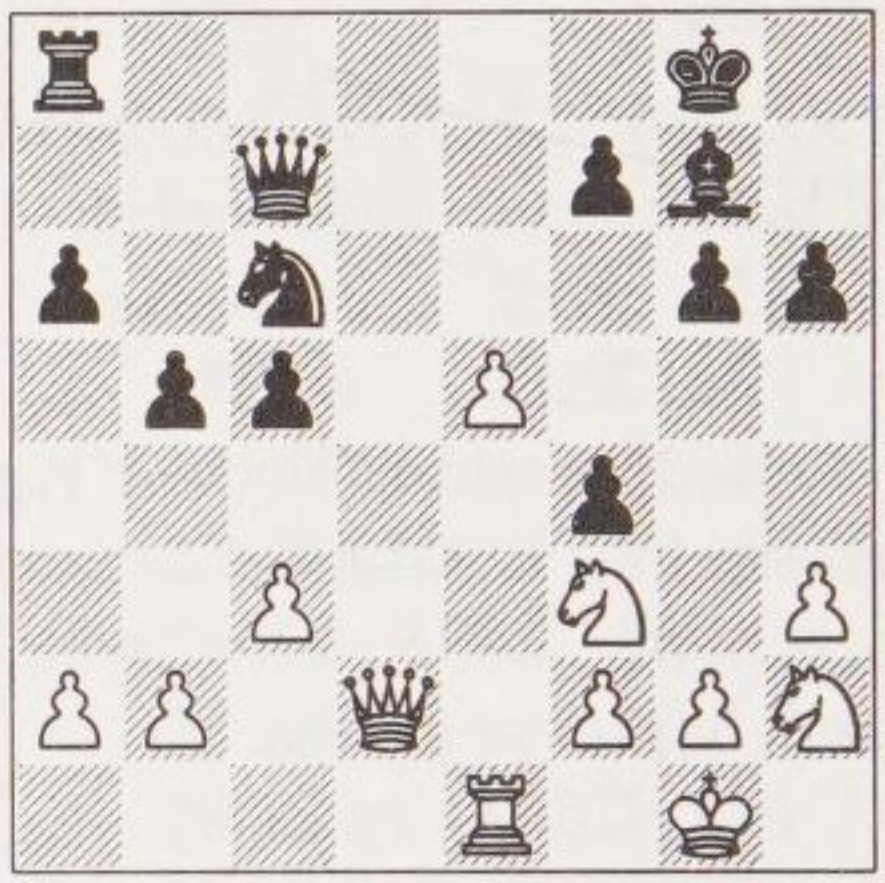
11	**dxe5**	**dxe5**
12	**♖e1**	**♕c8**
13	**♘f1**	**♖d8**
14	**♕e2**	**h6**
15	**♘1h2**	**b5**
16	**♗c2**	

The game now enters a phase where both players seem content simply to swap off pieces.

16	**...**	**♗e6**
17	**♗b3**	**♘f4**
18	**♗xf4**	

The knight would be too dangerous on f4 so Anand swaps it off immediately. Although this opens up the diagonal for the black bishop on g7, the c3-pawn does a good job of blunting its power.

18	**...**	**exf4**
19	**♖ad1**	**♖xd1**
20	**♕xd1**	**♘a5**
21	**♘d4**	**♗xb3**
22	**♘xb3**	**♘c4**
23	**♕c2**	**♘e5**
24	**♘d4**	**c5**
25	**♘df3**	**♘c6**
26	**♕d2**	**♕c7**
27	**e5** *(D)*	



B

27	**...**	**♖e8**

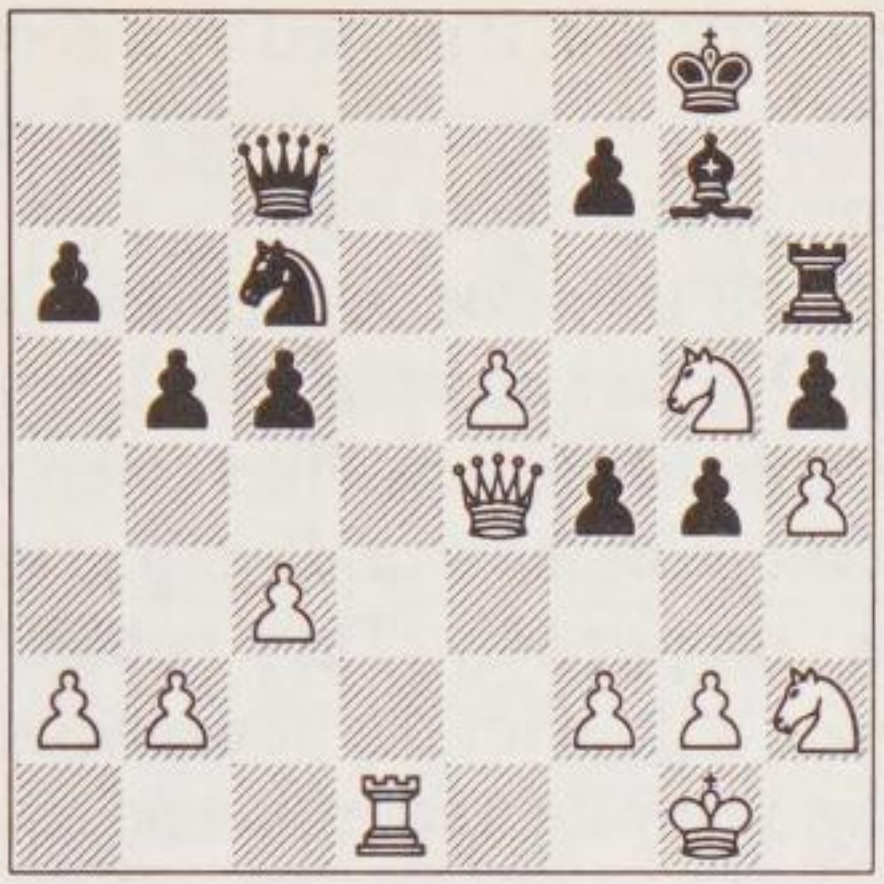
27...♘xe5? 28 ♘xe5 ♗xe5 29 ♕d5 ♖e8 30 ♘f3 wins the black bishop on e5, so Ivanchuk builds up the pressure on the e5-pawn. Anand, however, manages to hold on to the pawn and uses it to restrict his opponent's pieces while improving his own.

28	**♘g4**	**g5**
29	**♕d5**	**♖d8**
30	**♕e4**	**♖e8**
31	**♖d1**	**♖e6**
32	**h4!**	

Undermining Black's king-side.

32	**...**	**h5**

33 ♘gh2 g4
34 ♘g5 ♖h6 *(D)*



W

35 e6!

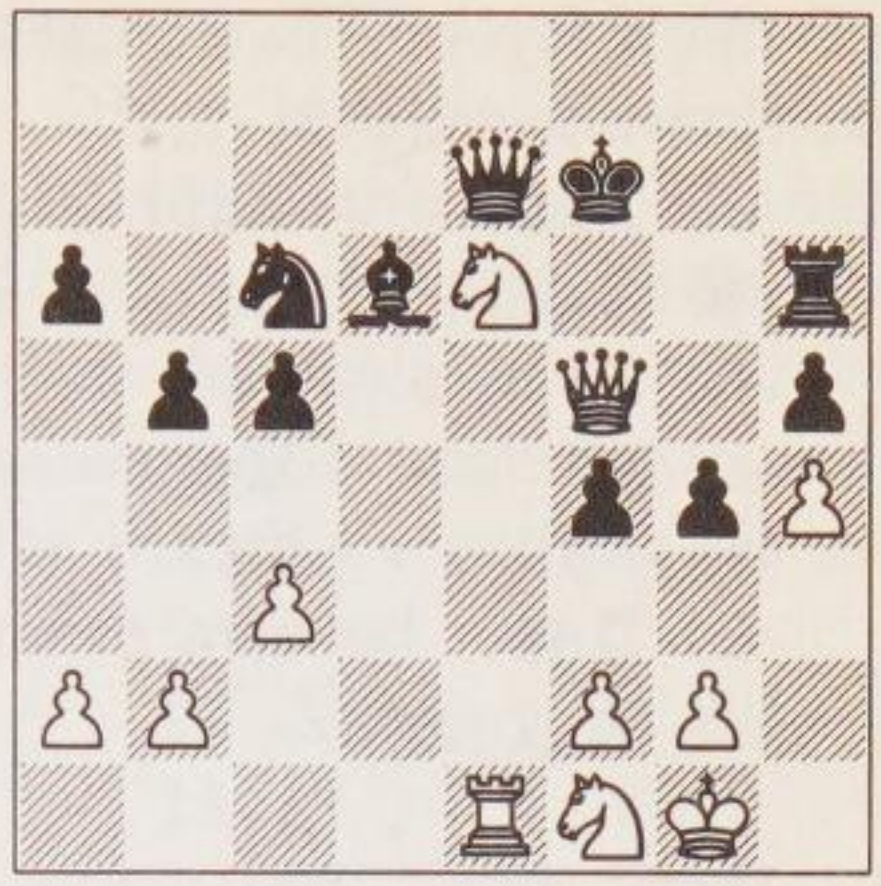
Trading pawns with 35 ♕xf4 ♘xe5 gets White nowhere, but with his knight ideally placed on g5 the time is right for Anand to play for the attack.

35 ... fxe6
36 ♘xe6 ♕e7
37 ♖e1 ♗e5
38 ♘g5

Ivanchuk would prefer his pawns to be back on f7, g7, and h7 since they serve no purpose on their current squares and only leave his king feeling exposed.

38 ... ♔g7
39 ♘f1 ♗d6
40 ♘e6+ ♔f7
41 ♕f5+ *(D)*

This check embarrasses Ivanchuk, who has many replies, all of which lose material.

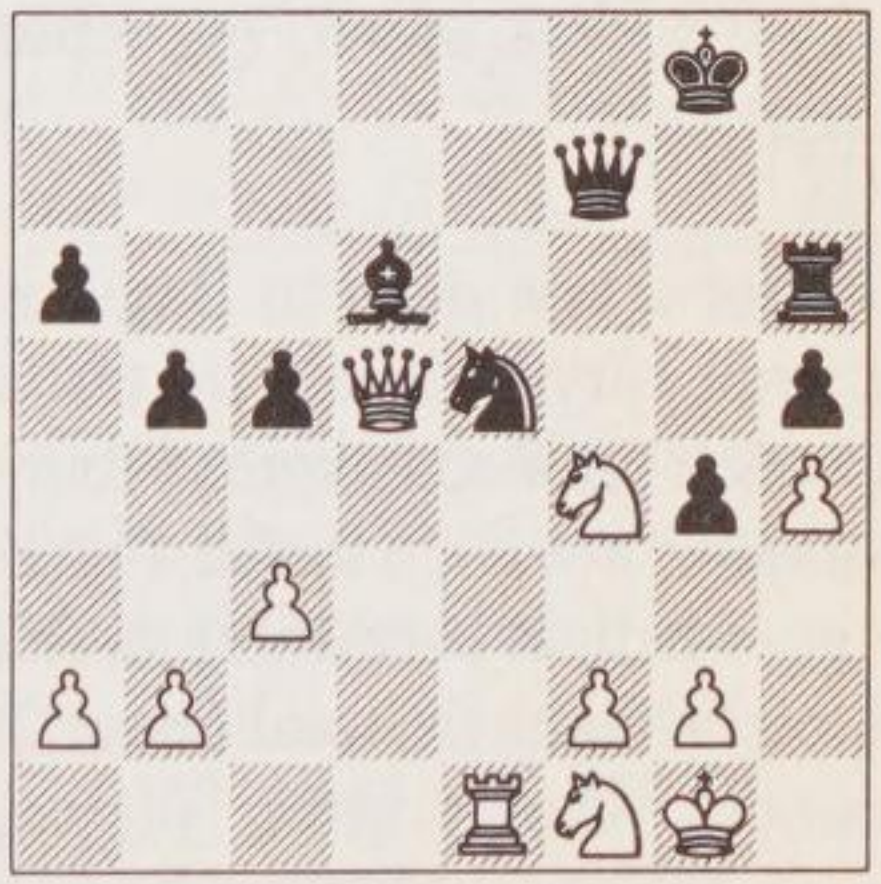


B

41 ... ♔g8

41...♔e8 loses the queen to 42 ♘g7+ as does 41...♖f6 to ♘g7+ whereas after 41...♕f6, 42 ♕d5 forks the bishop and knight. Ivanchuk chooses the best reply but still loses a couple of pawns.

42 ♕d5 ♘e5
43 ♘xf4+ ♕f7 *(D)*



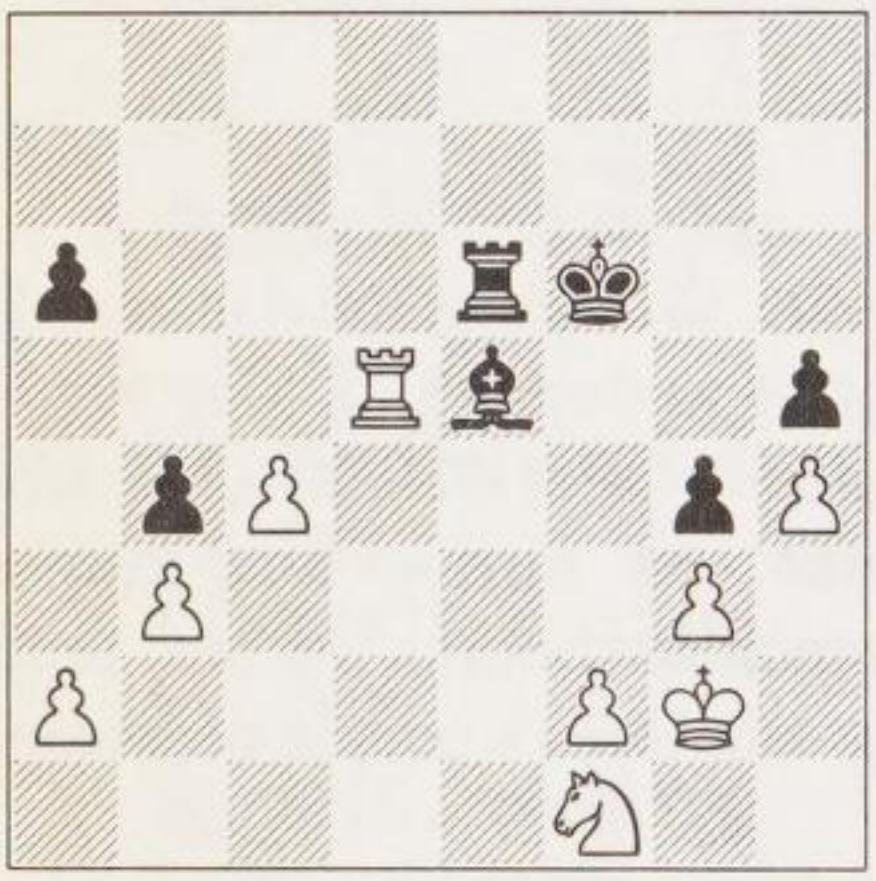
W

44 ♖xe5! ♕xd5

After 44...♗xe5 45 ♕xe5 the material balance would be too far

in White's favour – two knights and a pawn for a rook.

45	**♖xd5**	**♗xf4**
46	**♖xc5**	**♖e6**
47	**c4**	**b4**
48	**g3**	**♗e5**
49	**b3**	**♔f7**
50	**♖d5**	**♔f6**
51	**♔g2** *(D)*	



B

Two pawns down, **Ivanchuk resigned**.

After a few days in Baguio I became very sick; a mild throat infection seemed to spread to my stomach. It wasn't the best place to get medical care and I started to lose weight (in total about 25 pounds). Apart from playing chess, and the odd attempt to get to the bar, most of the time was spent in bed. To relieve the boredom, I went to the market and bought a wooden bow and arrow; it was very well made and cost about $2. I placed my box of medication on the floor and shot an arrow at it. It missed by a good few inches. About a dozen shots later I got a direct hit.

Later the same day, my second Jeff Horner and the Dutch representative Jeroen Piket (who is now one of the world's top players) dropped by. They couldn't resist a go with the bow and arrow. Vishy then called round, and he just had to have a go. It was so popular that a few more bows were bought. Within a few days we were holding regular archery competitions in the room. I remember one shot of Anand's missed the target completely and the arrow went twanging into the hotel door. Does damage to hotel property cover arrow hits? Doubtless the door has been repaired by now, but if Anand becomes World Champion it might have been worth preserving.

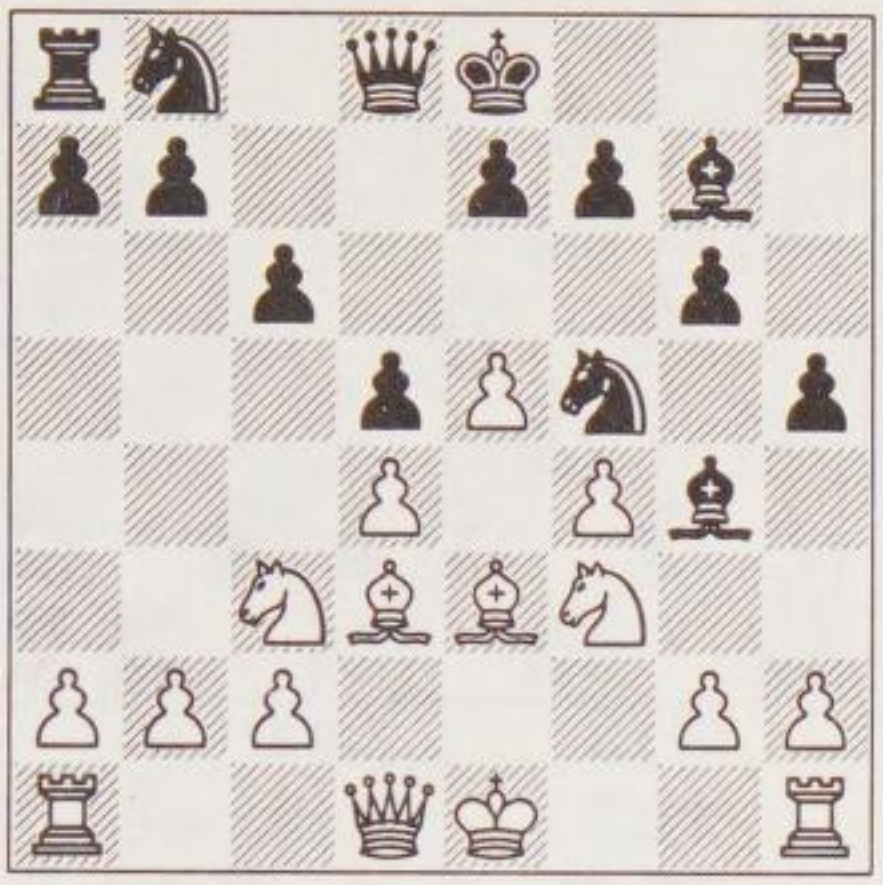
Anand-Blatny

World Junior Ch, Baguio 1987

Modern

1	**e4**	**g6**
2	**d4**	**♗g7**
3	**♘c3**	**c6**
4	**f4**	**d5**
5	**e5**	**h5**

6	**♘f3**	**♘h6**
7	**♗e3**	**♗g4**
8	**♗d3**	**♘f5** *(D)*



W

In this very solid system Black readily gives up his light-squared bishop, then sets up a blockade by putting all his pawns on light squares.

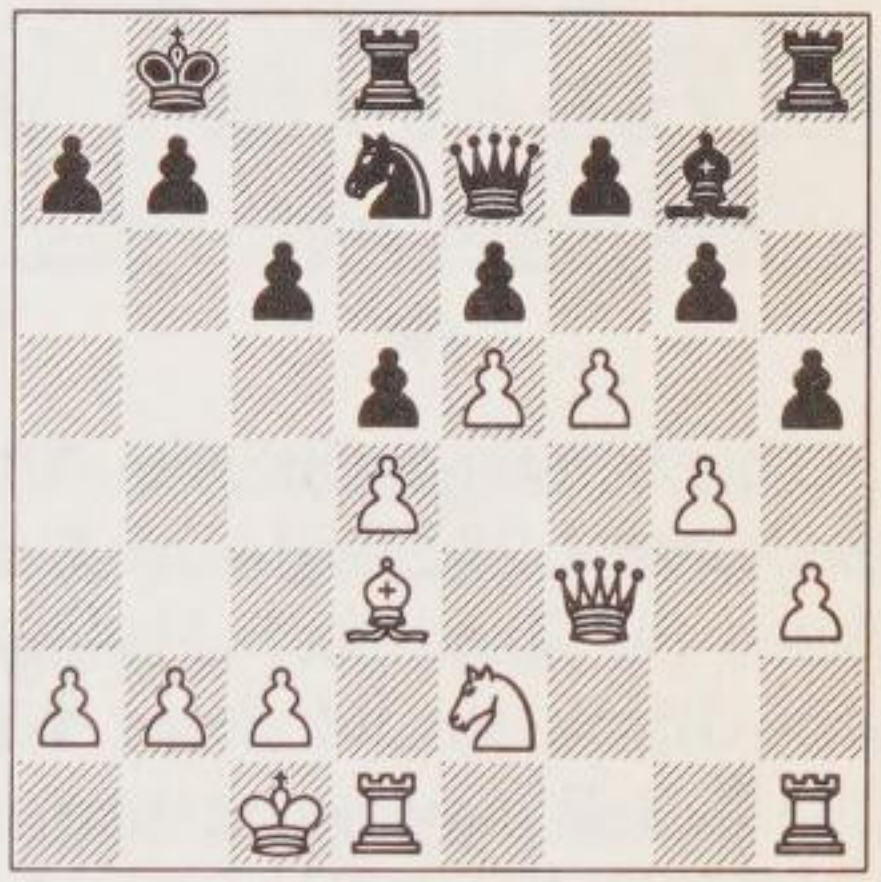
9	**♗f2**	**e6**
10	**h3**	**♗xf3**
11	**♕xf3**	**♘h4**

It is more usual for Black to play ...h4 in order to stop a white pawn from reaching g4, although recent games suggest that White can get a pleasant game in this case too. My own way of conducting this opening is to play an early ...♗g4 and ...♕b6 while delaying the development of the knight on g8. Here Blatny sees a chance to force White to exchange his dark-squared bishop.

12	**♕g3**	**♘f5**
13	**♕f3**	**♘h4**

Blatny is more or less offering a draw with this move. The white queen cannot drop back to e2 since the pawn on g2 would be taken, so if Anand is to avoid the draw by repetition his next move is forced.

14	**♗xh4**	**♕xh4+**
15	**g3**	**♕e7**
16	**g4**	**♘d7**
17	**0-0-0**	**0-0-0**
18	**♘e2**	**♔b8**
19	**f5** *(D)*	



B

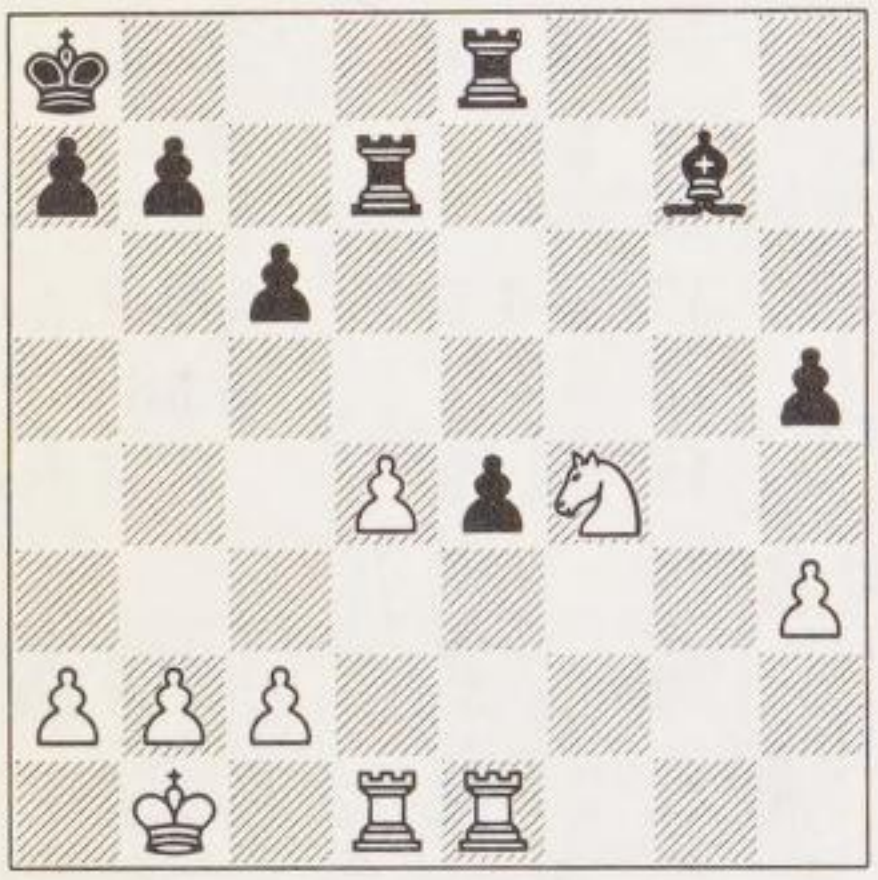
This is White's thematic pawn break. Black must act swiftly or risk being squashed.

19	**...**	**gxf5**
20	**gxf5**	**f6**
21	**fxe6**	**fxe5**
22	**exd7**	**e4**
23	**♕g3+**	**♔a8**

Blatny has found a neat way of maintaining equality; by trapping

the bishop on d3 he regains his piece.

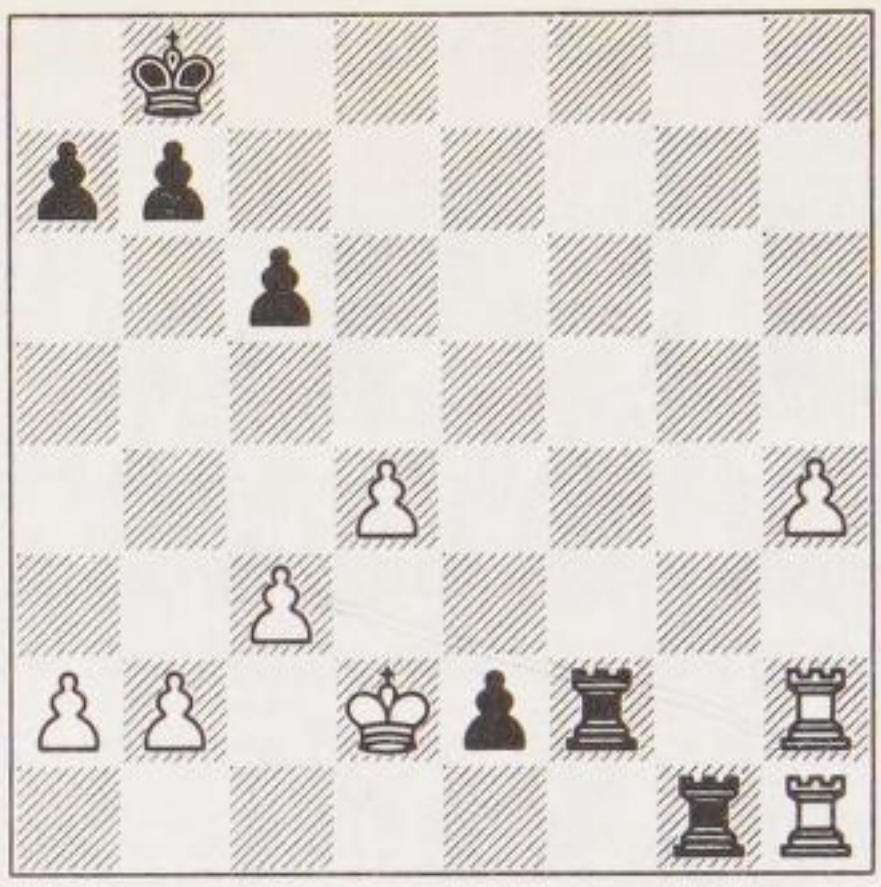
24	**♔b1**	**♖xd7**
25	**♘f4**	**exd3**
26	**♕xd3**	**♕e4**
27	**♕xe4**	**dxe4**
28	**♖he1**	**♖e8** *(D)*



W

This is over-optimistic. After the natural 28...♖xd4 29 ♖xd4 ♗xd4 30 ♖xe4 ♗c5 31 ♘xh5 ♔b8 Black should draw. With 28...♖e8 Blatny hopes that his passed e-pawn will become dangerous, but in fact Anand copes with it easily.

29	**♘xh5**	**e3**
30	**c3**	**♖f7**
31	**♘xg7**	**♖xg7**
32	**♖e2**	**♖g3**
33	**♖h1**	**♖f8**
34	**♔c2**	**♖ff3**
35	**♖eh2**	**♖f2+**
36	**♔d3**	**♔b8**
37	**h4**	**e2+**
38	**♔d2**	**♖g1** *(D)*



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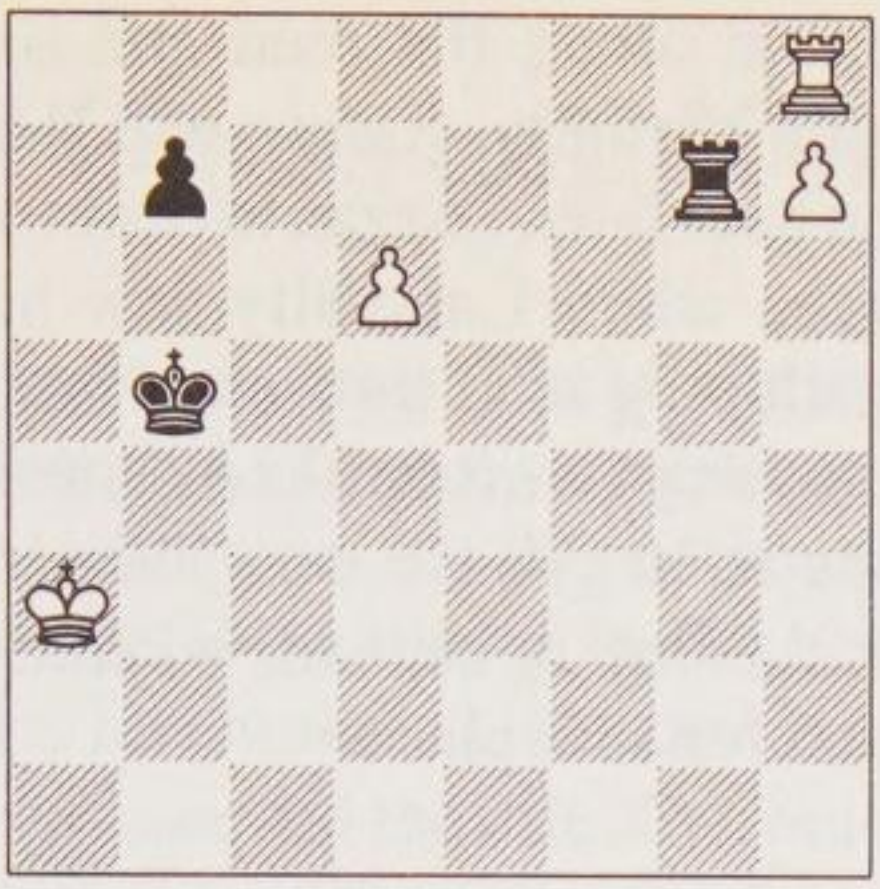
39	**♖xg1**	**♖xh2**
40	**♖g8+**	**♔c7**
41	**♖h8**	

Anand plays for the win by giving up his a- and b-pawns to hold on to his strong passed h-pawn. After 41 ♖e8 ♖xh4 42 ♖xe2 the position would be a draw despite White's extra pawn.

41	**...**	**e1♕+**
42	**♔xe1**	**♖xb2**
43	**h5**	**♖xa2**
44	**h6**	**♖h2**
45	**h7**	**♔b6**
46	**c4!**	**♖h4**
47	**d5**	**cxd5**
48	**cxd5**	**♖e4+**
49	**♔d2**	**♖e7**
50	**d6**	**♖g7**
51	**♔c3**	**a5**
52	**♔c4**	**a4**
53	**♔b4**	**a3**
54	**♔xa3**	**♔b5** *(D)*



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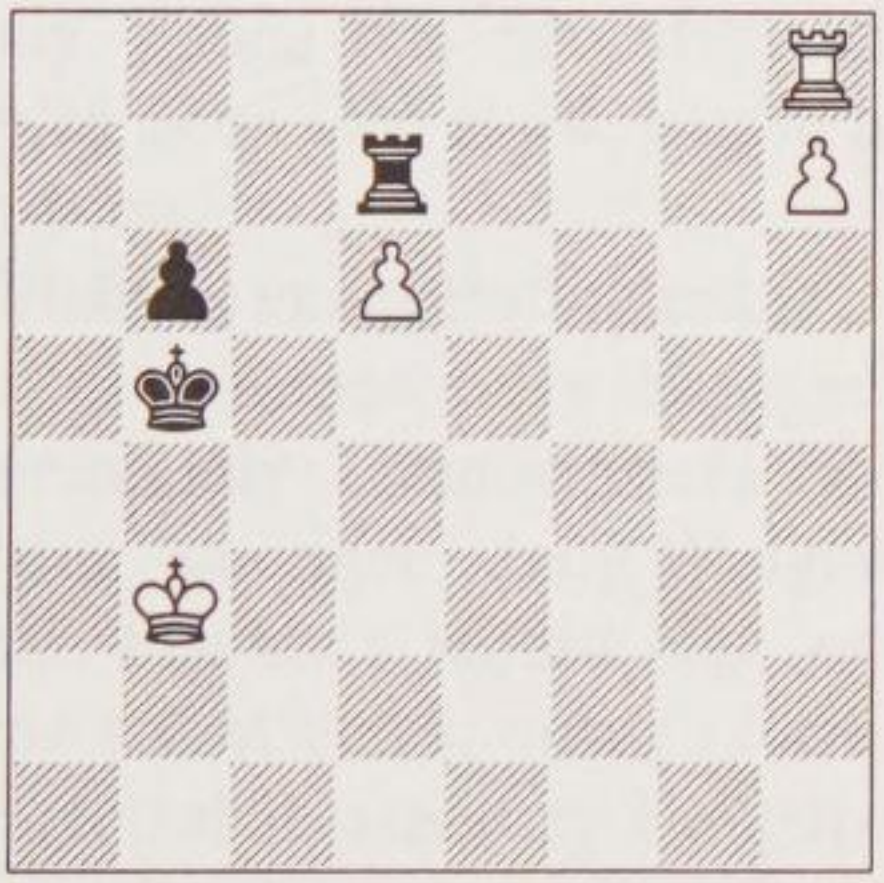
55	**♔b3**	**♖f7**
56	**♔c2**	**♖d7**
57	**♔c3**	**b6**
58	**♔b3** *(D)*	



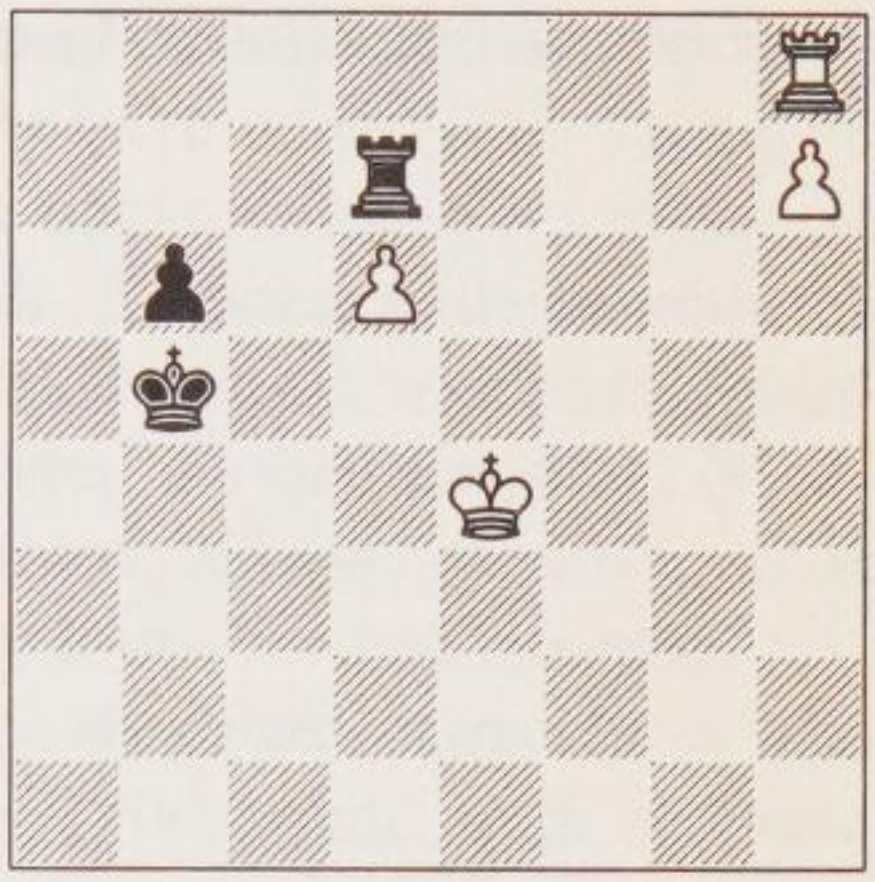
B

Anand's manoeuvring has imprisoned the black king. Any king move allows White a rook check followed by queening the h-pawn. Anand only needs to transfer his king to the kingside without allowing his d-pawn to be taken with check.

58	**...**	**♖g7**
59	**♔c2!**	**♖f7**

59...♖d7 60 ♔c3! forces the rook to move away from the d-pawn, after which 61 ♔d4 wins.

60	**♔d3**	**♖d7**
61	**♔e4** *(D)*	



B

The white king will force one of the pawns home, so **Blatny resigned**.

In the last game Anand needed a draw against Israel's Gad Rechlis. According to Anand 'Only in the last round did I play safe, which actually was a mistake.' It is a common failing even among experienced players that when they just need a draw, they start playing like a vegetable. Vishy played too passively and reached a difficult position. Only then did he start to play chess and secured the draw.

Far more interesting was Ivanchuk, who needed to win to get second place. It wasn't so much his game at the board that was interesting, but rather the way he was behaving outside the tournament hall. Clearly, the pressure was starting to get to him, because I saw him suddenly sprint along the road and then stop abruptly. Rather odd. Half an hour later, I began to doubt my eyes when I actually saw him galloping as if he were a horse. Anyway, who am I to criticise his strategy? He won his game and came in second, whereas I tied for 13th place.

6 Chess and Karma

Anand was now World Junior Champion and, not surprisingly, the tournament invitations began to flow. For winning in Baguio City, he earned a GM norm but he still needed the title. Conveniently, he played two tournaments in India during 1987, and made norms in both of them. So at eighteen years of age he was awarded the title of International Grandmaster. As Anand recounts, 'In those days it was fairly good, but nowadays if you're not a GM at 14, you're a has-been.'

Vishy is exaggerating but it is true that things have changed dramatically. Grandmasters are getting younger; Judit Polgar broke Fischer's record and became a GM at 15, only to have her record smashed by Hungarian prodigy Peter Leko. There are also a lot more grandmasters. Ten years ago a reasonable grandmaster could earn a good living. Now it would be unthinkable to be a serious professional unless you were a very strong grandmaster.

The collapse of the former Soviet Union has made matters worse. Hordes of strong GMs from the former republics travel to any open tournament with a decent prize fund. While they have raised the standard of chess, they have added little colour to the chess scene. This influx of East Europeans destroyed the market value of a western grandmaster. As one English GM lamented, 'Chess has ceased to be fun. It has become business.'

Such matters cannot have been in Vishy's mind back in those good days of 1987. The Berlin Wall was still firmly up, and if you faced a lot of Russians it probably meant that you were playing for roubles in Russia. And if you lost, say, 7 games, drew 4 and won none (as I myself did in Lvov 1986) it didn't really matter because they weren't all following you home.

In 1988, Anand travelled to England to play in the British Championships. As a citizen of the Commonwealth he was eligible to compete and was seeded number 2. 'The British' is a peripatetic event, which can take place anywhere in the UK. That year it took place in Blackpool, a

seaside resort in the North West of England. Blackpool is infamous for its pier, rock (the sweet edible variety) and beer-swilling fun. Nothing there to appeal to a good Hindu? In those days, though, 'the British' was a prestigious tournament and the appearance money for GMs was excellent.

Anand started on form, winning his first two games. In round 3, I checked the pairings after a heavy English breakfast and the fried bread flipped in my stomach: Anand-Norwood. Just three months before I had beaten my first grandmaster and Vishy had congratulated me. I had no idea that he was about to become my second GM scalp.

Anand-Norwood
British Ch (Blackpool) 1988
Modern

1	**e4**	**g6**
2	**d4**	**♗g7**
3	**♘c3**	**d6**
4	**♗e3**	**c6**
5	**a4**	

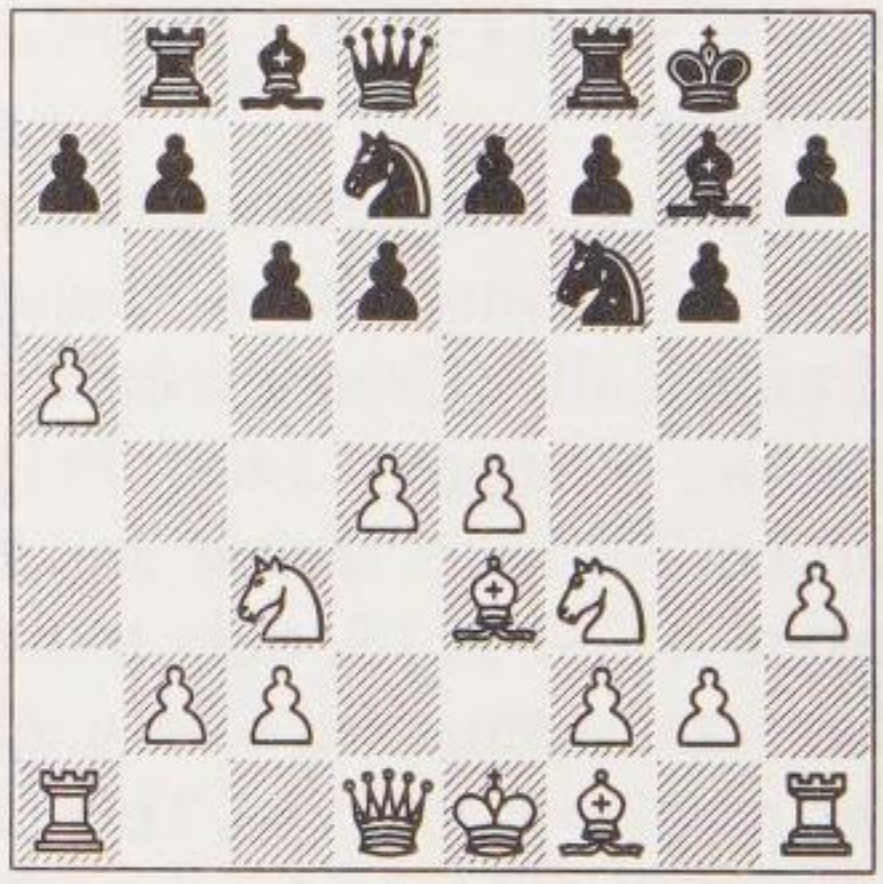
This move suggests that White will play a more classical system against the Modern. The more aggressive alternative is 5 ♕d2 with a view to a kingside assault. That is why Black has delayed developing the knight, because on g8 it prevents White's bishop from coming to h6.

5	**...**	**♘f6**
6	**h3**	**0-0**
7	**♘f3**	

At the time this system was all the rage. Black can now try 7...d5 8 e5 ♘e4 9 ♘xe4 dxe4 10 ♘g5 c5 to dislodge White's central pawns.

7	**...**	**♘bd7**
8	**a5**	**♖b8** *(D)*

This is an interesting idea that I had discovered some months before. Instead 8...e5 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 ♕d6 is pleasant for White.



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9	**d5**	

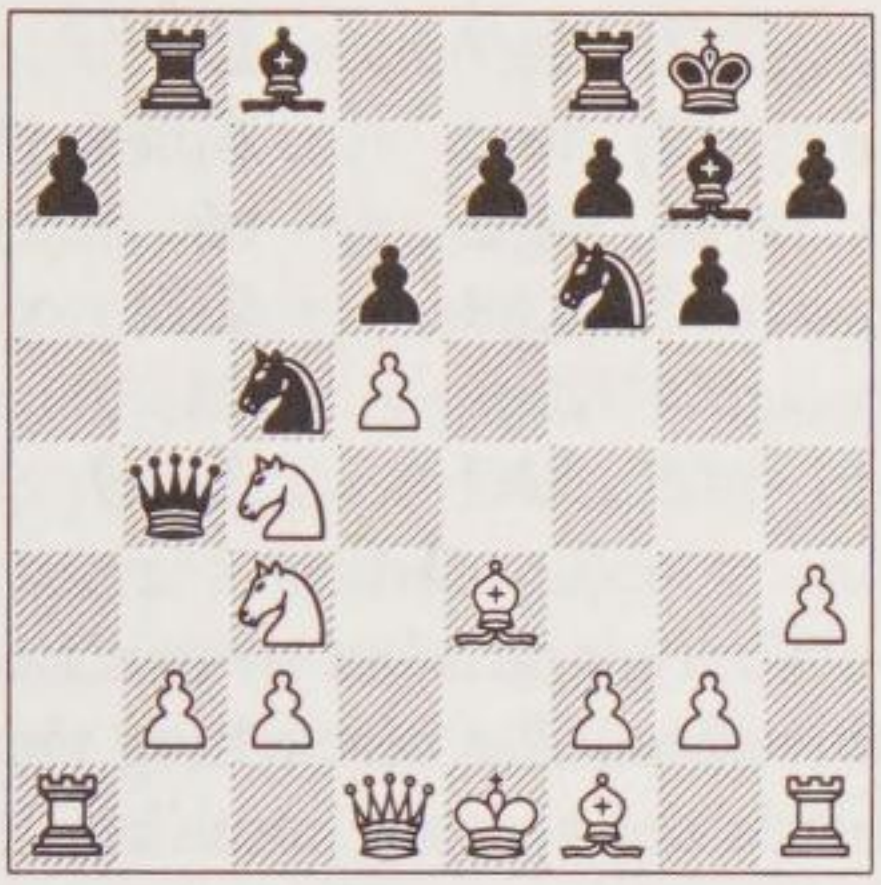
9 e5 is the most testing continuation.

9	**...**	**♘c5**

Black already has an active game. If White captures on c5 he will be left with very weak dark

squares. Capturing on c6 gives me pressure on the b-file.

10 ♘d2 cxd5
11 exd5 b5
12 axb6 ♕xb6
13 ♘c4 ♕b4 *(D)*



W

White is in a tangle. The threat is 14...♘xd5 and 15...♗xc3+.

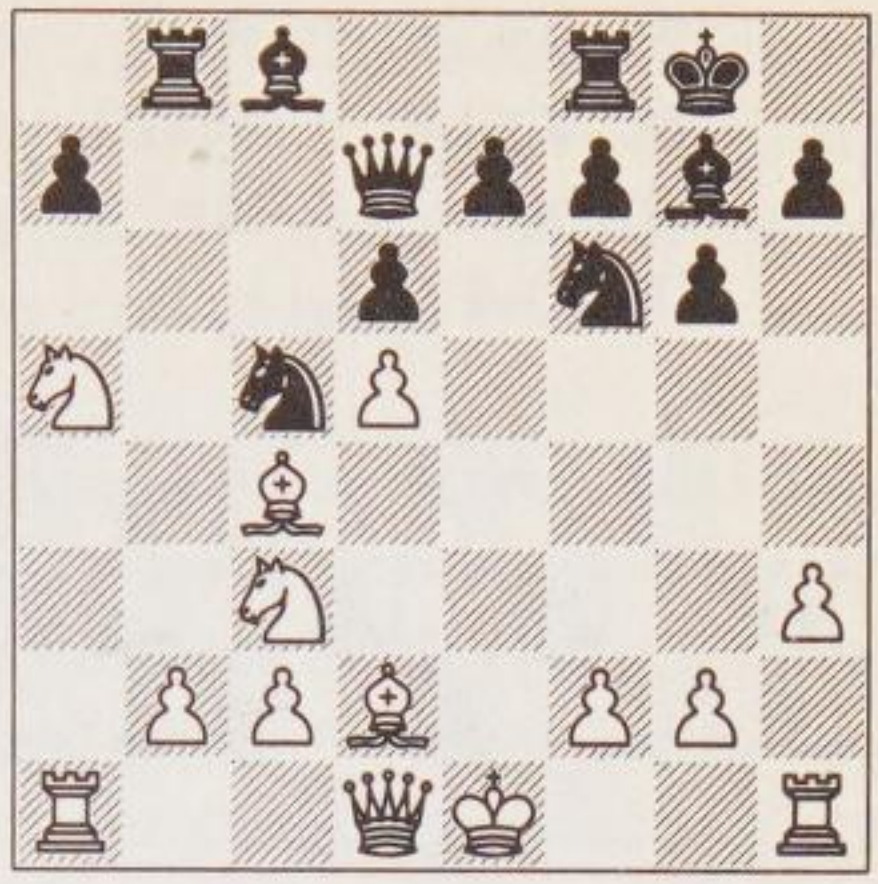
14 ♗d2 ♕b7
15 ♘a5

This stretches White even further. Vishy would be better to admit that he is worse and just try to repeat the position with 15 ♗e3.

15 ... ♕d7
16 ♗c4 *(D)*

This loses a pawn but 16 ♘c4 ♗a6 steps up the pressure even further.

16 ... ♖xb2
17 0-0 ♕f5
18 ♖a2 ♖xa2
19 ♗xa2 ♗a6
20 ♘c6 ♖e8



B

21 ♘d4 ♕h5

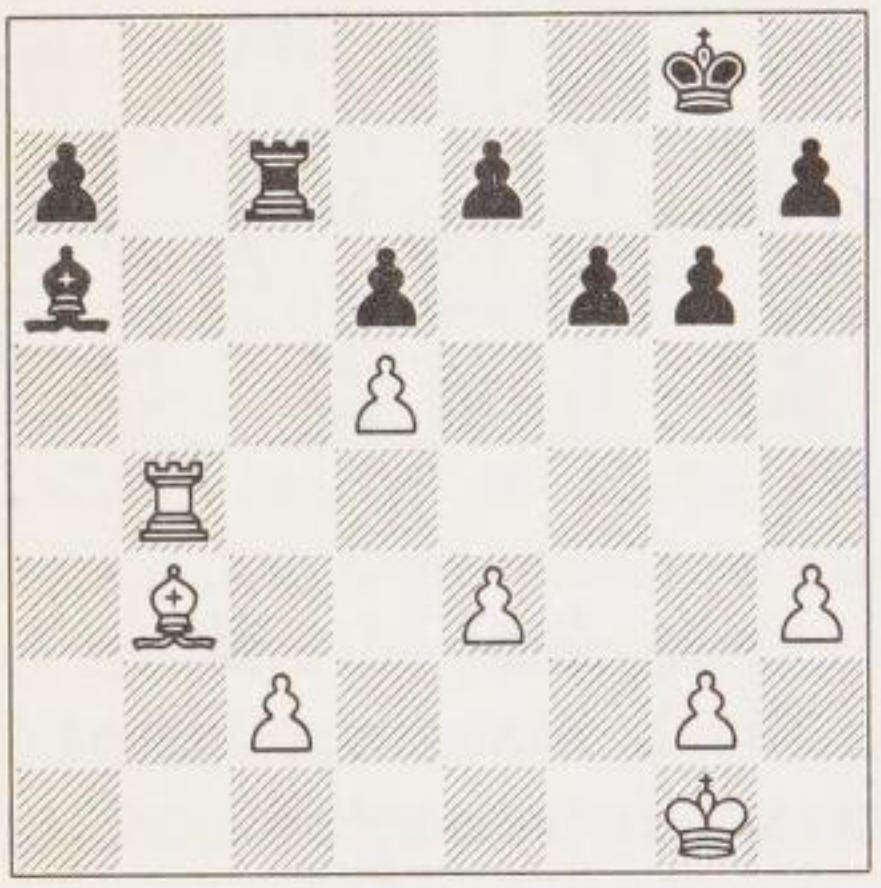
Black has consolidated his material advantage. White is hard pressed to avoid the queen exchange and the resulting endgame is losing.

22 ♖e1 ♕xd1
23 ♖xd1 ♘fe4 *(D)*

W

24 ♘xe4 ♗xd4
25 ♖e1 ♘xe4
26 ♖xe4 ♗b6
27 ♗g5 ♖c8

28	**♗b3**	**f6**
29	**♗e3**	**♗xe3**
30	**fxe3**	**♖c7**
31	**♖b4** *(D)*	



B

Vishy is fighting hard but the a-pawn should guarantee Black a win, barring any major hiccups. My first thought was to activate my king.

31	**...**	**♔f7**
32	**e4**	**♗c8**
33	**♖b8**	**♗d7**
34	**♖a8**	**♖b7**
35	**♔f2**	**f5**
36	**♔e3**	**fxe4**
37	**♔xe4**	**h5**
38	**♔f4**	**♗f5**
39	**♔g5**	**♖c7**
40	**c4**	**♗d3**
41	**♔h6**	**♗xc4**
42	**♗c2**	

After 42 ♗xc4 ♖xc4 43 ♖xa7 ♖c5 Black is winning easily.

42	**...**	**♗xd5**
43	**♗xg6+**	**♔e6**
44	**♖f8**	**♗xg2**
45	**h4**	**d5**
46	**♗xh5**	**♗e4**
47	**♗f7+**	**♔e5**
48	**h5**	**d4**
49	**♖d8**	**d3**
50	**♔g7**	**♖c2**
51	**h6**	**♖g2+**
52	**♔f8**	**e6**
53	**♗g8**	**♖h2**
54	**♔g7**	**d2**
55	**♗h7**	**♗xh7**

0-1

Vishy is fast but he can't win this race. The black king shepherds the e-pawn home and the rook can be sacrificed for the h-pawn.

After the game, Vishy was feeling pretty miserable. Apart from losing he had a terrible cold. Anand is now a seasoned traveller but in 1988 he wasn't used to summer in the North of England. From the start of the tournament he had a permanent snitch that no amount of handkerchiefs would curtail. Once we had analysed, I suggested a walk along the sea-front. 'All right', he said, 'but first I must blow up my nose.' Even if Anand beats Kasparov and becomes the Champion of the World, one image of him will prevail in my mind. A

young Anand, snitching away, holding a stick of dynamite to his nostril and declaring cheerily; 'This'll clear it.'

Anand had a terrible time of it in Blackpool, and I remember feeling a bit sorry for him. So much is expected of prodigies that when they don't perform, people are over-eager to write them off. For Anand this was the start of a wobbly patch that lasted two years. Good results were interspersed with accidents, and the accidents were rather too frequent for a player bidding for super-GM status.

It was during this time that Anand earned himself a rather dubious honour: the shortest loss by a grandmaster.

Zapata-Anand
Biel 1988
Petroff

1	**e4**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘f6**
3	**♘xe5**	**d6**
4	**♘f3**	**♘xe4**
5	**♘c3**	**♗f5**

This is a disastrous new idea. Vishy must have felt a little confused after White's next move.

6 ♕e2

Black resigned. After 6...♕e7 7 ♘d5 ♕d8 8 ♘d2 White will win a piece. Black could limp on with 6...d5 7 ♕b5+ ♘d7 but Anand obviously felt his karma was against him.

How can a player who lost such a game now be challenging for the World Title? Having competed many times in India, and accumulated a formidable score against Indian players (about +25, as opposed to -25 against Soviets), I have developed a theory about their chess style. British Grandmaster Danny King came to a similar conclusion after he won the 1992 Calcutta tournament One concept permeates every aspect of life in India and even extends to the chessboard: *karma*.

Just what is karma? Broadly speaking, karma encapsulates a philosophy that events are preordained, and that fortune, good or bad, should be accepted with equanimity. Thanks to reincarnation, if you have a bad lot but you take it well, you may be rewarded in your next life. In some ways it is a dangerous philosophy. If you accept poverty and corruption, or social injustices like the caste system, then indirectly you condone them. On the other hard, so many things in India are just so bad, that acceptance is perhaps

the only thing that stops society falling apart.

Indian players seem to approach their chess games with a strong sense of karma. Attacks may work; they may not. There is no great point analysing too deeply. It is rather like the Indian bus drivers. They speed along without a care for life and limb. If they crash: karma. Is this what allows Anand to play so quickly? Would he still make mistakes if he just slowed down a little? Has Vishy improved so much recently because he has curtailed this philosophical streak?

We saw Vishy in England again in 1990. He was a stronger player but his progress had not been prodigious. He played in the Oakham Junior International, and though seeded number 1, he made little impression. Afterwards he was persuaded to head north for an international tournament in Prestwich, Manchester, which turned out to be the tournament during which his rating went over 2600 – Super-Grandmaster territory. Thanks to the format of the tournament I didn't have to play him. He mopped it up, except in the following clash with Batsford's renowned Chess Editor, who has kindly provided notes specially for this book.

Burgess-Anand
Prestwich 1990
Modern

Before this game, Vishy had been plagued by a camera crew from Channel Four television, who were making a documentary about Sultan Khan. 'There's an obvious link; the guy only came from a place about a thousand miles from Madras.' It so happened that I drew the short straw: my game against Vishy was due to be filmed, for possible use in the documentary. My intended role was unmistakable: I was to be the crushed bug.

1 d4 d6
2 ♘f3 g6

At the time Vishy did not believe in 2...♗g4, a move that he had played with success, to be OK for Black. Several months later, he was playing it again, presumably having found some improvements. This open-minded approach is in sharp contrast to players who continue playing their favourite lines, no matter how suspect they have become, deceiving themselves into thinking they are still viable.

3 c4 ♗g7
4 ♘c3 ♘c6

Vishy avoids the King's Indian. Objectively, his opening is

not so good, but he guides the game quickly towards uncharted territory.

5 d5 ♘e5
6 ♘xe5 ♗xe5
7 g3

This seems to be the right idea. White's pressure on the long diagonal will discourage Black from moving his c-pawn.

7 e4?! would invite the reply 7...♘f6 when Black has ideas of ...♗xc3+.

7 ... ♗g7

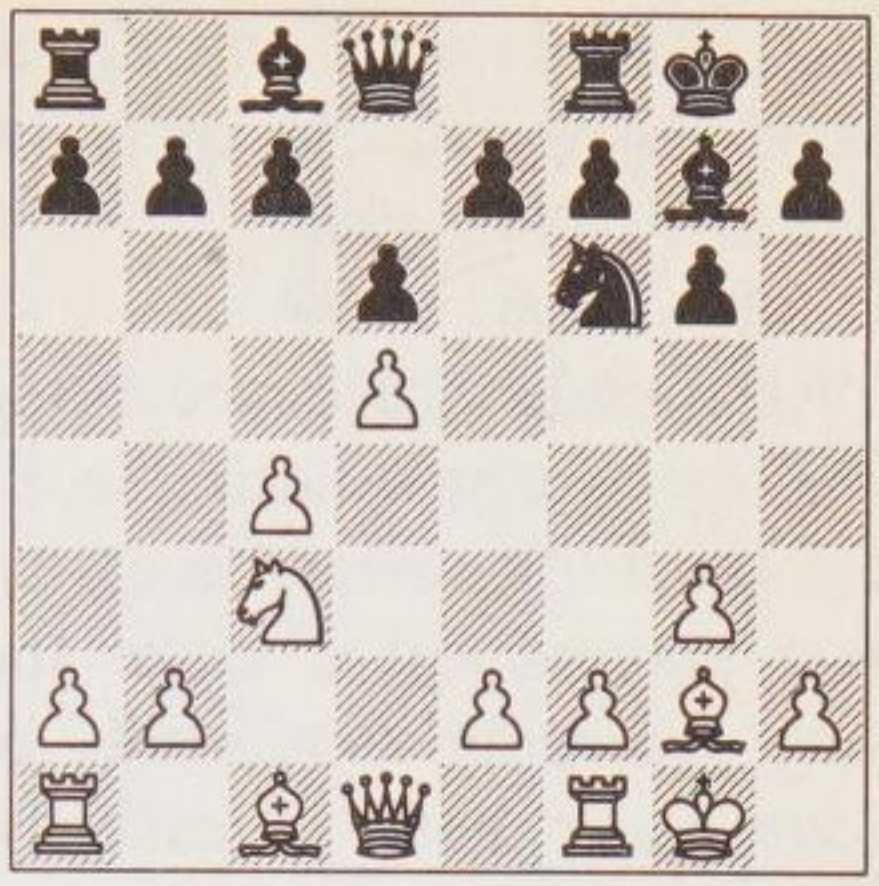
It is hard for Black to continue his development without this modest retreat. However, I am sure that many players as Black would try to justify the bishop's position in the centre with some rash activity.

7...f5 is unconvincing after simply 8 ♗d2!, meeting 8...♘f6 with 9 f4.

7...♘f6 8 ♗d2 again has ideas of f4, while 7...c6 8 dxc6 bxc6 9 ♗g2 gives White some useful pressure.

8 ♗g2 ♘f6
9 0–0 0–0 *(D)*

Around this point, a major practical difficulty when playing Anand became apparent. *You are nailed to the board!* For a period of about two and a half hours, you have no more than a few moments to look at other games,



W

sip coffee, chat with friends, and all the other things chess players normally do to release the tension built up at the board. Of course, there's nothing to stop you doing these things, but it's difficult to relax in the knowledge that within seconds of leaving your board, yet another grandmaster move will have been unleashed, and your clock will be ticking. Even going to the toilet is a problem. I think most players try to time these visits to be just after they have really given the opponent something to think about. I did so after my next move ... it saved me about a minute!

10 ♗e3

10 ♕c2 was Ribli's suggestion; 10 ♗g5 is another idea, but then 10...♗d7 planning ...c5 may be OK.

10 ... e5

10...♗d7 11 c5!? was not to Vishy's liking, since he could not see a satisfactory plan.

11 dxe6

'Absolutely forced' according to Vishy. Not just desirable, or best, but a life-saving necessity. Most players either make too many sweeping statements, or hedge their bets excessively. Vishy's comment is based on the point that without capturing, White will not be able to justify his piece positioning, Black will take the initiative on the kingside, and that will be the end of the matter.

11 ... ♗xe6

11...fxe6 would be structurally bad, whatever cheap tricks Black might be able to generate on the f-file.

12 b3 c6
13 ♖c1 ♕a5
14 ♕d2

Not 14 ♕xd6? ♘g4 15 ♗d4 ♕h5 16 h3 ♖fd8, which favours Black, but 14 ♗d4 is possible.

14 ... ♖fd8

After the game we looked at 14...♘g4 15 ♗d4 ♗h6 16 f4 c5?! (16...♖fe8 is more sensible) in the post-mortem, and agreed that 17 ♗f2 was good for White, but it's odd that Vishy didn't mention 17 ♘d5.

15 ♖fd1

15 ♗g5 is an idea, preventing Black completing his queen manoeuvre, but I was really just thinking from move to move, rather than doing much long-term planning. I think this is a consequence of the lack of time to reflect generally on the position – normally done when the opponent's clock is ticking.

15 ... ♕h5

With some crude ideas. This game started a trend in the tournament for the 'Vishy queen manoeuvre'. In the seventh round I ventured it under even cruder circumstances against none other than David Norwood 'I thought yours was terrible at first, but ended up quite liking it...', but when Matveeva tried it against Mickey Adams, it ended in tears: '...Svetlana's was really awful.'

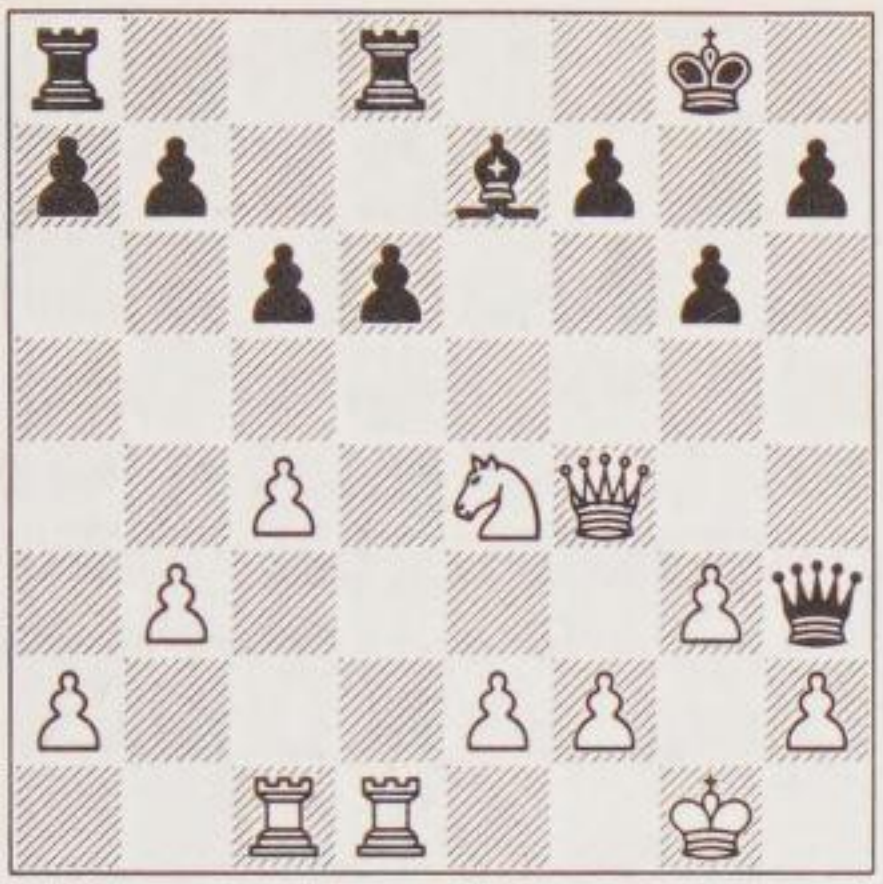
16 ♗d4

Again, 16 ♗g5 didn't really occur to me. To be honest, although objectively White's position is fine, I felt rather like a rabbit dazzled by the headlights, and just wanted some way to avoid becoming the mid-session entertainment for the other players.

16 ... ♗h3
17 ♗xf6

17 f3 is safe, but a slight concession, whilst 17 e4 is playable.

17 ... ♗xf6
18 ♘e4 ♗e7
19 ♗xh3 ♕xh3
20 ♕f4 *(D)*



B

With some relief, I realised that I still had a position – I'd lasted twenty moves!

20 ... ♕e6

Threatening ...f5, and gradually dismantling my position.

21 g4

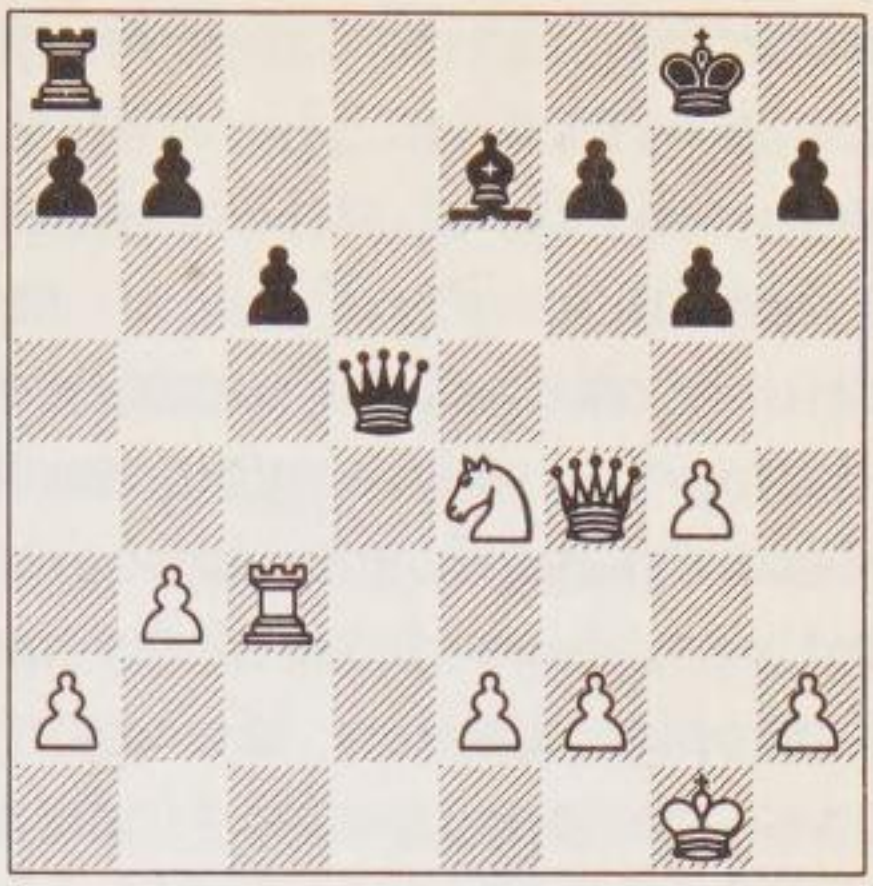
I'm not sure that I would have played this move against an ordinary player. It's especially important not to give ground against a stronger player.

21 ... d5
22 cxd5 ♖xd5

22...cxd5 looks like a reasonable IQP position.

23 ♖xd5 ♕xd5
24 ♖c3! *(D)*

Now a critical position has arisen. However, something odd



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happened here: Vishy's sense of humour helped land him in a lost position. A few rounds earlier, Vishy had covered up his scoresheet while his opponent, Alisa Galliamova, was in time trouble, and not recording her moves. Of course, there is nothing wrong or unethical about doing this; a player who lacks the time to write down the moves doesn't deserve to know the move number. Even so, Dave and I had commented on this ungentlemanly behaviour, slightly to Vishy's amusement/irritation: 'I can tell that when we're all old men, all we'll talk about from this tournament is how I covered my bloody scoresheet against Galliamova!' (maybe a prophetic statement – did he suspect that we would become author and editor of his first chess biography?) This led us on to a lively

discussion (over the superb dinners provided at The Village, Prestwich) about various illegal or unethical practices at the board. I voiced my abhorrence of blitzing, viz. playing your move before writing down your opponent's previous move. Vishy had asked my opinion of writing down the opponent's (forced) move before it was played. My view was that, since there was always the option to resign, this was not keeping a true record of the game, therefore was also illegal. With a cheeky grin, Vishy quickly played...

24 ... ♕d1+?

25 ♔g2 ♕xe2?!

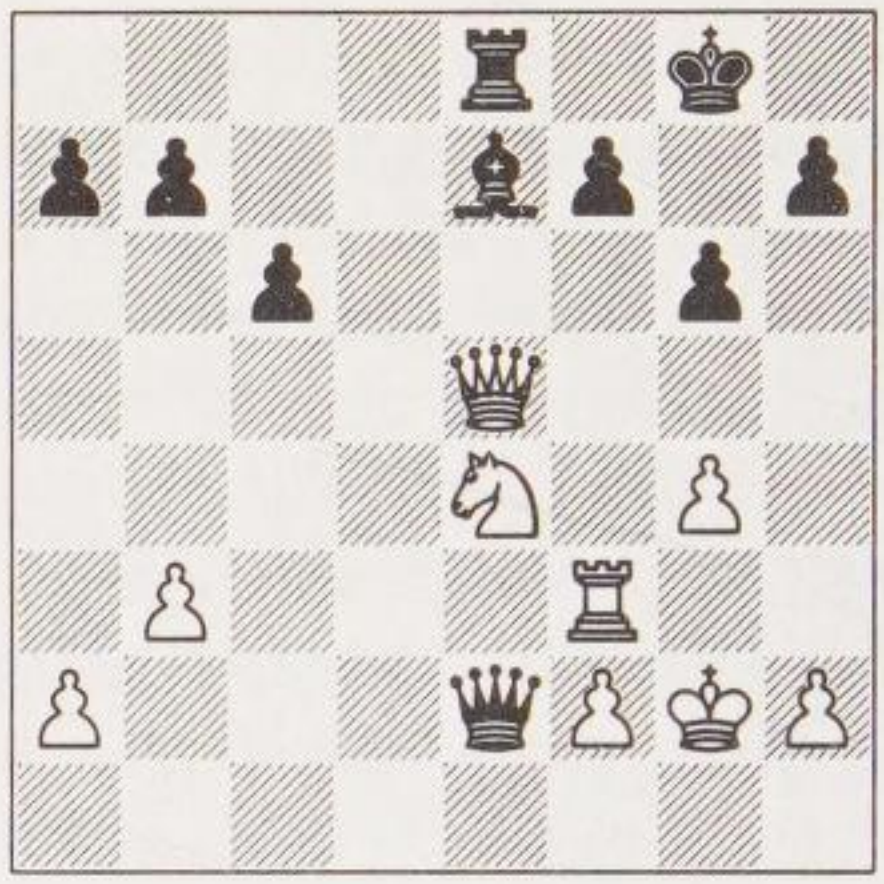
...having written down my 25th move before I'd played it. Our eyes met, and we almost burst out laughing. Naturally, I picked up a pawn, and placed it on my scoresheet, over where I wrote my next move.

The mood then changed somewhat, as we both realised that Vishy's joke had landed him in some very hot water. From having a laugh about a silly joke, it was now 'My God, I might beat a World Champion-to-be' and 'I might lose to a weak player'.

Instead of giving the queen check, 24...g5 was necessary, but after 25 ♕e3 ♕d1+ 26 ♔g2 ♕d7 27 h3 ♕e6 28 ♘g3 White would have kept an edge.

26 ♖f3 ♖f8

27 ♕e5! ♖e8 *(D)*



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I now spent the most agonising few minutes of my chess-playing 'career' wondering whether to play for a win, or take a draw (Clock times: White 1 hr 56 min; Black 25 min – more than average for the tournament). Unfortunately I concentrated on 28 g5, which is just bad. I saw 28 h3, failed to see a defence, but I couldn't believe I could get away with a slow move – after all, Vishy would have an hour and a half to find a defence, and I would have a lifetime to regret failing to draw against a great player.

28 ♕f4?

But the last joke was on me, because after 28 h3, defending g4 in preparation for 29 ♖e3, Black

has no defence to White's threats, e.g.:

a) 28...♕xa2 29 ♘f6+ ♗xf6 30 ♕xe8+ ♔g7 31 g5

b) 28...f6 29 ♕e6+

c) 28...h6 29 ♖e3 ♕xa2 30 ♘d6 ♗xd6 31 ♕xe8+ ♔g7 32 ♖f3.

d) 28...c5 29 ♖e3 ♕a6 (this is very similar to 29...♕b5 30 ♘f6+ ♗xf6 31 ♕xe8+ ♕xe8 32 ♖xe8+) 30 ♘f6+ ♗xf6 31 ♕xe8+ ♔g7 is Black's best chance.

28 ... ♖f8

½-½

We then had an enjoyable post-mortem, with the camera crew present. Vishy made one memorable comment for their benefit: 'In the past, you read *Informator* if you were interested in opening theory. Nowadays, you've just got to read it, or you get killed.' Not sure what they made of that. Having signed the 'do what you like with the footage' waiver forms, we made our escape, and took a walk around scenic Prestwich. Vishy, upon seeing a voluptuous blonde jogger, commented 'You know, I suddenly feel like jogging...' Maybe his mind just wasn't on chess that day.

(Notes by Graham Burgess)

So a few steps forward, a few steps back. Life has its ups and downs. Karma.

7 Making his Mark

With the notable exception of Garry Kasparov, players do not improve on a straight-line basis. Since winning the World Junior, the lightning-fast Anand would always crop up in a discussion about future contenders. But Anand could also be wobbly, and in 1990 I would have put my money on the Soviet stars like Vassily Ivanchuk or Boris Gelfand.

In 1989 Anand had purchased a *ChessBase* to run on his computer. There was nothing unusual about this; most players saw the need to access a chess database. *ChessBase* allows one to search for a potential opponent. It will then list all his games, so that you can see which openings he plays and prepare accordingly. Now there are more than 500,000 competitive games on database, and every serious professional carries a laptop to tournaments.

I believe that the growth of chess databases has benefited some players above others. It is a blow for the Bohemian types who turn up at the board and rely largely on inspiration. The English Grandmaster Mickey Adams is famous for his lazy approach to the game. When the studious French Grandmaster, Joel Lautier, asked him why he didn't own a portable computer, Mickey quipped; 'Because then I would have to take it with me.' That was in Terrassa, Spain, in 1991; Mickey won the tournament, beating Ivanchuk along the way.

Chess has become a scientific sport, where pre-game preparation is almost as important as what you do on the board. Nobody takes preparation lightly anymore. Mickey has found himself lost from the opening in too many games, and now even he packs his portable along with his pop music cassettes. Anand has never been a rebel. He enjoys chess and looking at chess games. For him *ChessBase* is a great advantage. His speed allows him to scan hundreds of games an hour. For most grandmasters this would not be possible, but I've known Vishy follow (and by this I mean really understand what is happening) six or seven games being played round him, while simultaneously winning his own game.

More important is his memory. It is one thing to look at lots of games, it is another to commit them to your long-term memory. I cannot remember games that I played last month. Vishy has an almost supernatural ability to recall games played years before, and not just his own. This is a big advantage in top-level chess. Remembering your lines is as important in chess as it is on stage.

1991 was a brilliant year for Anand. He qualified for the World Championship cycle and was paired against Karpov. At the time Karpov had never lost a match to anyone other than Kasparov. Vishy also seemed to be having problems finding a second, but in the end he started work with Mikhail Gurevich, one of Russia's top GMs.

Everyone expected Anand to receive a pounding. He eventually lost, but it was far from a foregone conclusion. I think it was Vishy who made people realise that Karpov *was* vulnerable to someone other than Kasparov.

Anand-Karpov
Brussels Ct (3) 1991
Caro-Kann

1	**e4**	**c6**
2	**♘c3**	

In game 1 Anand played 2 d3, and here he continues to avoid the main lines (2 d4) and employs a favourite variation of the young Bobby Fischer.

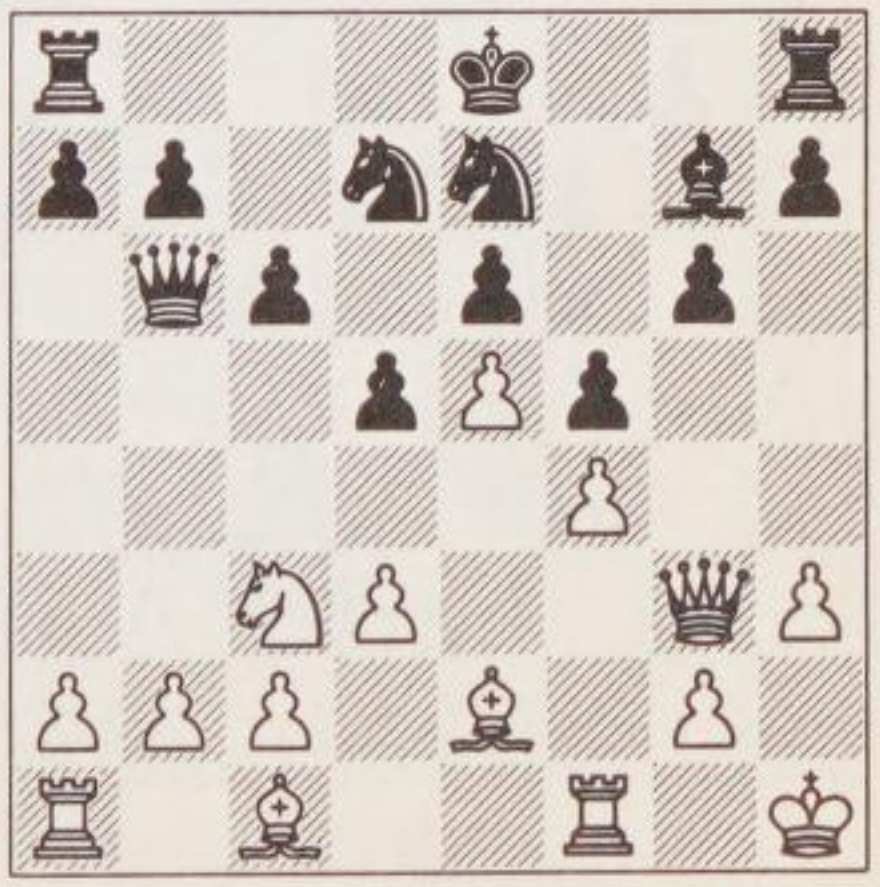
2	**...**	**d5**
3	**♘f3**	**♗g4**
4	**h3**	**♗xf3**
5	**♕xf3**	**e6**

Karpov has swapped off the light-squared bishops, so he thematically sets up his pawn formation on the light squares in order to give his dark-squared bishop more scope.

6	**d3**	**♘d7**
7	**♗e2**	**g6**
8	**0-0**	**♗g7**
9	**♕g3**	**♕b6**
10	**♔h1**	**♘e7**
11	**f4**	**f5**

11...0-0? allows 12 f5 exf5 13 exf5 ♘xf5 14 ♖xf5! gxf5 15 ♗h6 winning.

12 e5 *(D)*

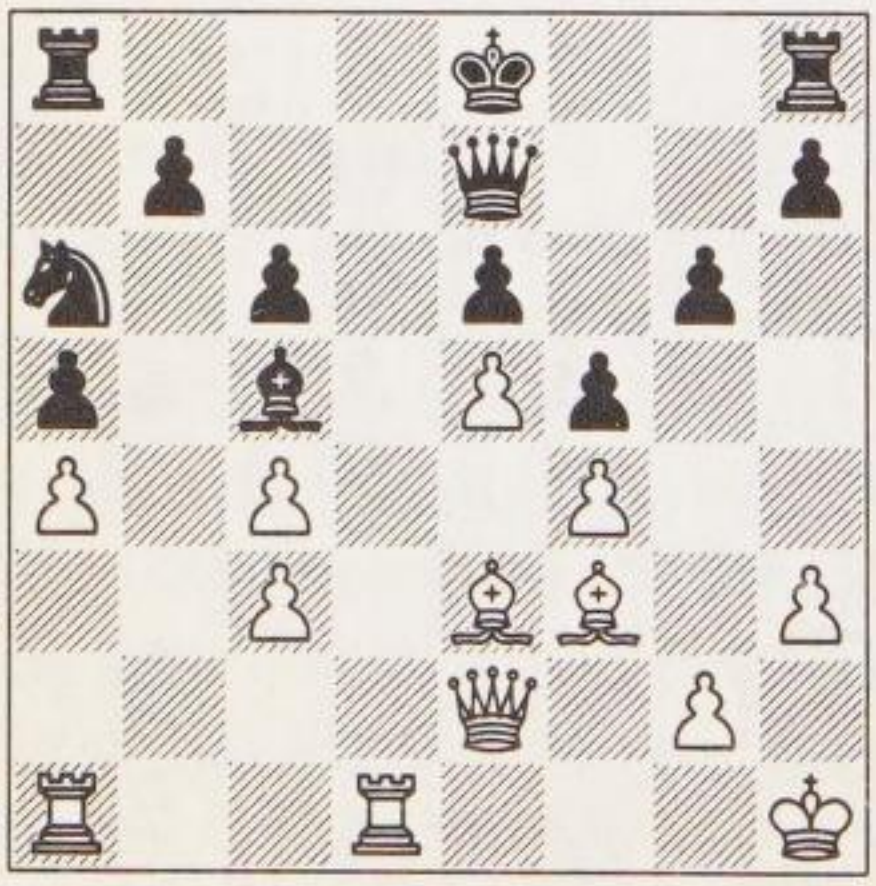


B

12 ... d4?

Having completed his strategy of placing his pawns on light squares, Karpov makes a mistake by lunging forwards with his d-pawn and placing it on a dark square. The idea is to free d5 for the black knight, but the move also gives Anand the c4-square for his knight and starts to open up the h1-a8 diagonal for the light-squared bishop.

13	**♘b1**	**♘d5**
14	**♘a3**	**♗f8**
15	**♘c4**	**♕c7**
16	**a4**	**♘7b6**
17	**♕f2**	**♘xc4**
18	**dxc4**	**♘b4**
19	**♗f3**	**♗c5**
20	**♖d1**	**♕e7**
21	**♕e2**	**a5**
22	**c3!**	**dxc3**
23	**bxc3**	**♘a6**
24	**♗e3!** *(D)*	

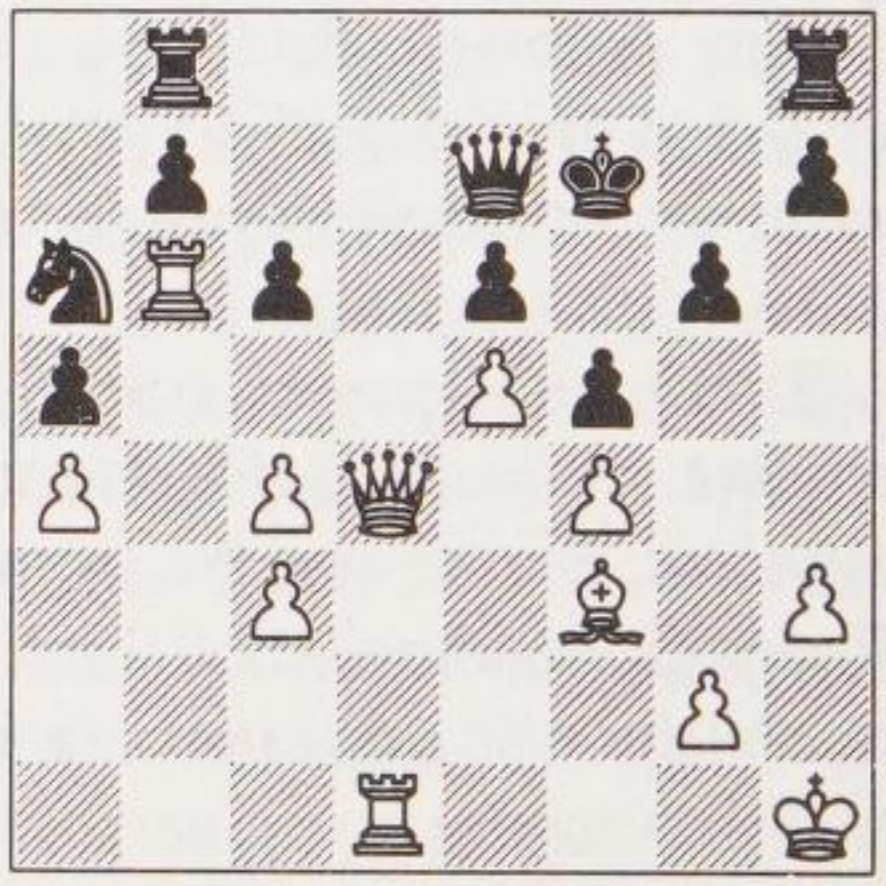


B

At first sight it appears that Anand has gone wrong by permitting his c-pawns to become horribly weakened, but he has calculated that this weakness will be more than compensated for by his play down the b- and d-files.

24	**...**	**♗xe3**
25	**♕xe3**	**♕c5**
26	**♕d4!**	**♔f7**
27	**♖ab1**	**♖ab8**
28	**♖b6**	**♕e7** *(D)*

In principle, Karpov would like to swap queens but an immediate swap allows Anand to undouble his c-pawns by taking back with the c3-pawn, threatening the dangerous d5 break.



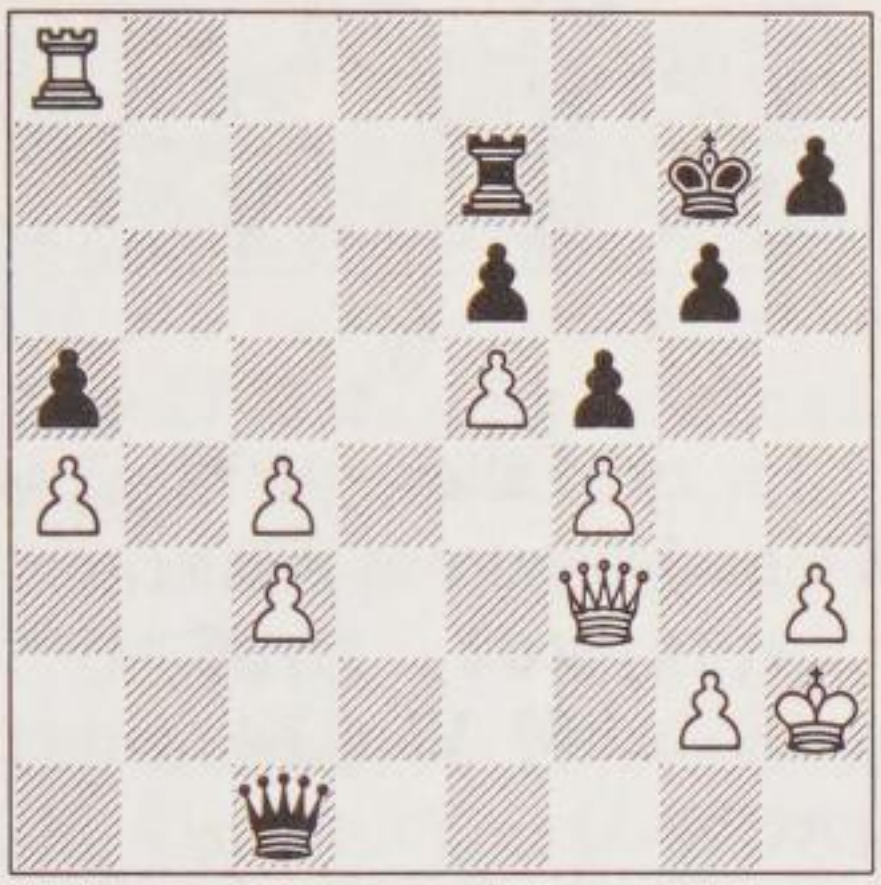
W

29	**♗xc6**	**bxc6**
30	**♖xa6**	

Now Karpov is almost lost due to his weak queenside pawns.

30	**...**	**♖hd8**
31	**♕g1**	**♖xd1**

32	**♕xd1**	**♖d8**
33	**♕f3**	**♕a3**
34	**♔h2**	**♖d7**
35	**♕xc6**	**♖e7**
36	**♖a8**	**♕c1**
37	**♕f3**	**♔g7** *(D)*

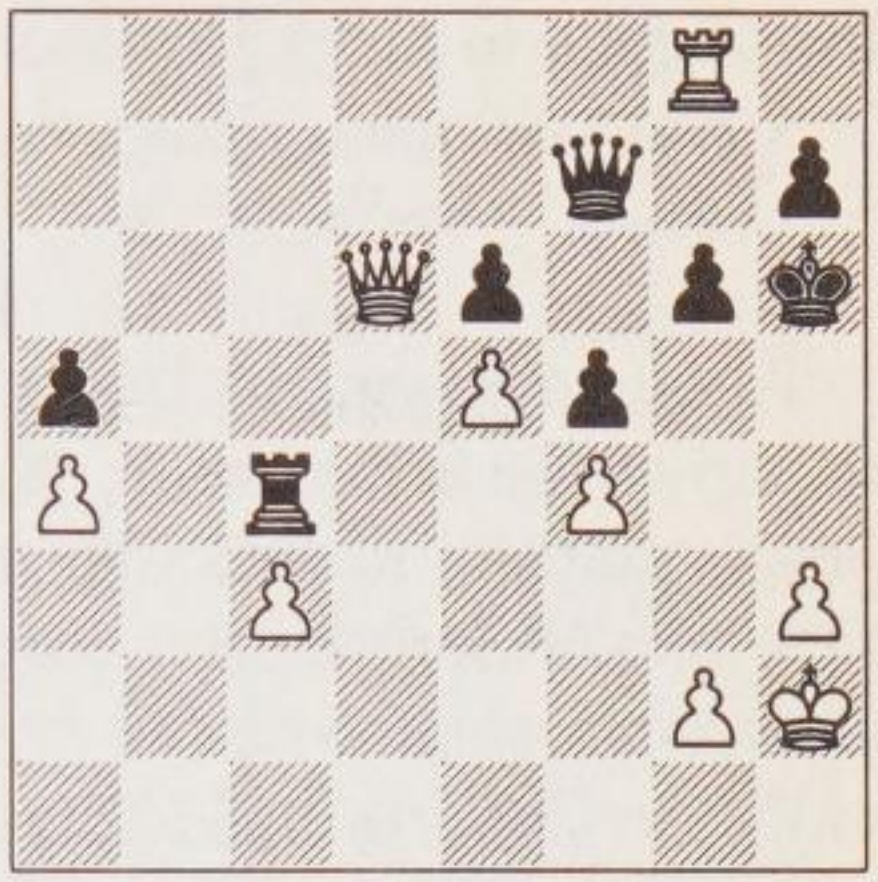


W

38 ♖d8

Anand is reluctant to allow his opponent any counterplay by playing ...♖d7-d1, but in fact he should have pushed his passed c-pawn and left his king to run the gauntlet on the kingside: 38 c5! ♖d7 39 c6 ♖d1 40 c7! ♖h1+ 41 ♔g3 ♕e1+ 42 ♕f2 ♕xc3+ 43 ♔h4 g5+ 44 ♔xg5 ♖xh3 45 gxh3 ♕xh3 46 ♖g8+ ♔f7 47 ♕h4 ♕g2+ 48 ♔h6 and with his king safe, Anand's passed c-pawn will prove decisive.

38	**...**	**♖c7**
39	**c5**	**♕a3**
40	**♕a8**	**♕xc5**
41	**♖g8+**	**♔h6**
42	**♕d8**	**♕e7**
43	**♕d2**	**♖c4**
44	**♕d6**	**♕f7** *(D)*

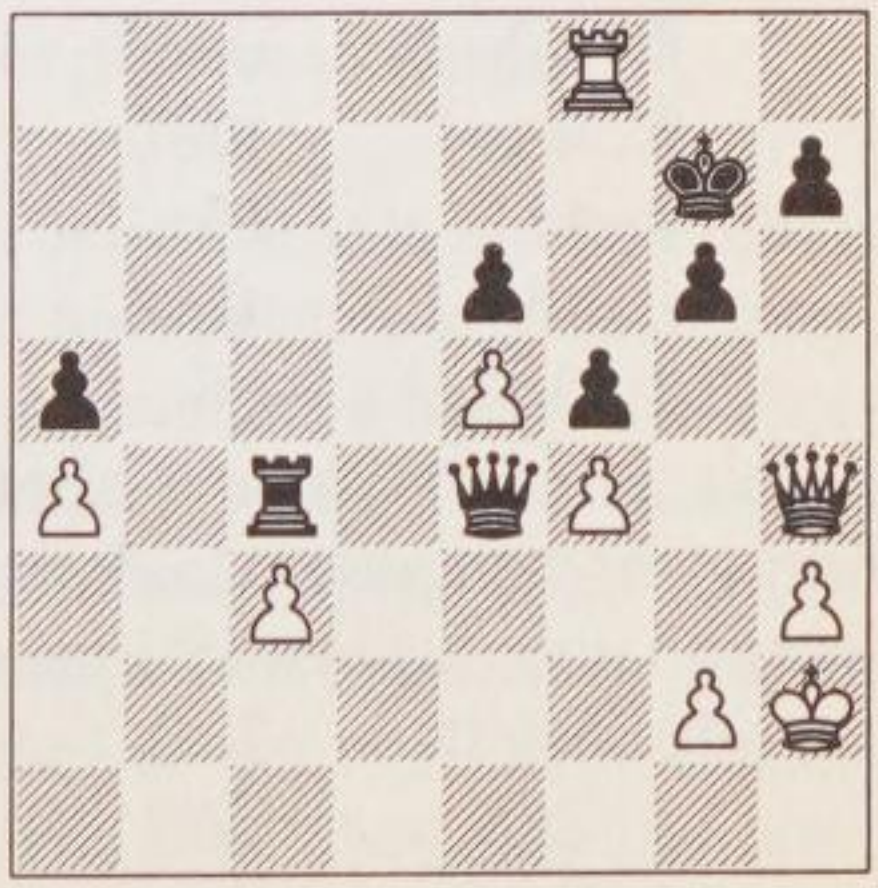


W

45 ♖f8?

This was Anand's last chance. He could have won with 45 ♕d8! (threatening 46 ♕h4 mate) 45...♖xf4 46 g4! when Karpov can no longer stop ♕h4 mate.

45	**...**	**♕b7**
46	**♕d8**	**♕e4**
47	**♕h4+**	**♔g7** *(D)*



W

Here a draw was agreed since Anand has no more than a draw by perpetual check after ♕h4-f6-h4. A preparatory move would allow Karpov to play ...♕xf4+.

A lucky escape by Karpov.

½-½

To quote Raymond Keene at an early stage in the match; 'Karpov is starting to look like the sick man of Europe.' But people always underestimate the depth of the fire burning in old Tolya...

Karpov-Anand

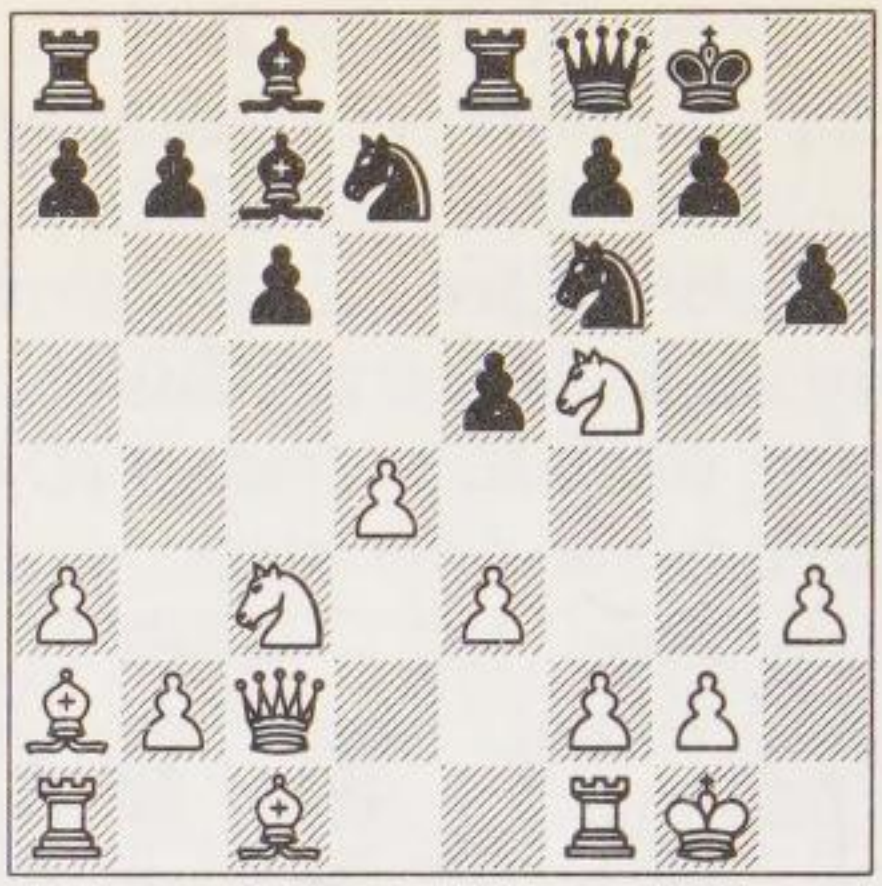
Brussels Ct (8) 1991

Semi-Slav

1	**d4**	**d5**
2	**c4**	**c6**
3	**♘f3**	**♘f6**
4	**♘c3**	**e6**
5	**e3**	**♘bd7**
6	**♕c2**	**♗d6**
7	**♗e2**	**0-0**
8	**0-0**	**dxc4**
9	**♗xc4**	**♕e7**
10	**a3**	**e5**
11	**h3**	**♗c7**
12	**♗a2**	**h6**

This is too slow and allows Karpov to manoeuvre his knight round to the excellent f5-square.

13	**♘h4!**	**♖e8**
14	**♘f5**	**♕f8** *(D)*
15	**♘b5!**	**♗b8**



W

15...cxb5 allows 16 ♕xc7 with a big advantage to White.

16 ♗d2 a5

16...cxb5? 17 ♗b4 wins the queen.

17 dxe5 ♗xe5

In a phone call to Ian Rogers, Anand later recommended the move 17...♖xe5 as a major improvement.

18 f4 ♗b8

The lines 18...cxb5 19 fxe5 ♖xe5 20 ♗c3 ♖e8 21 ♘xh6+ gxh6 22 ♕g6+ ♔h8 23 ♖xf6! and 18...♗xb2 19 ♘bd6 ♗xa1 20 ♗xf7+ ♔h8 21 ♘h4 both win for White.

19 ♘c3

Finally the knight retreats, having completed its task on b5. The knight has had a restrictive effect on Anand's pieces, which are now underdeveloped and lacking promising outposts.

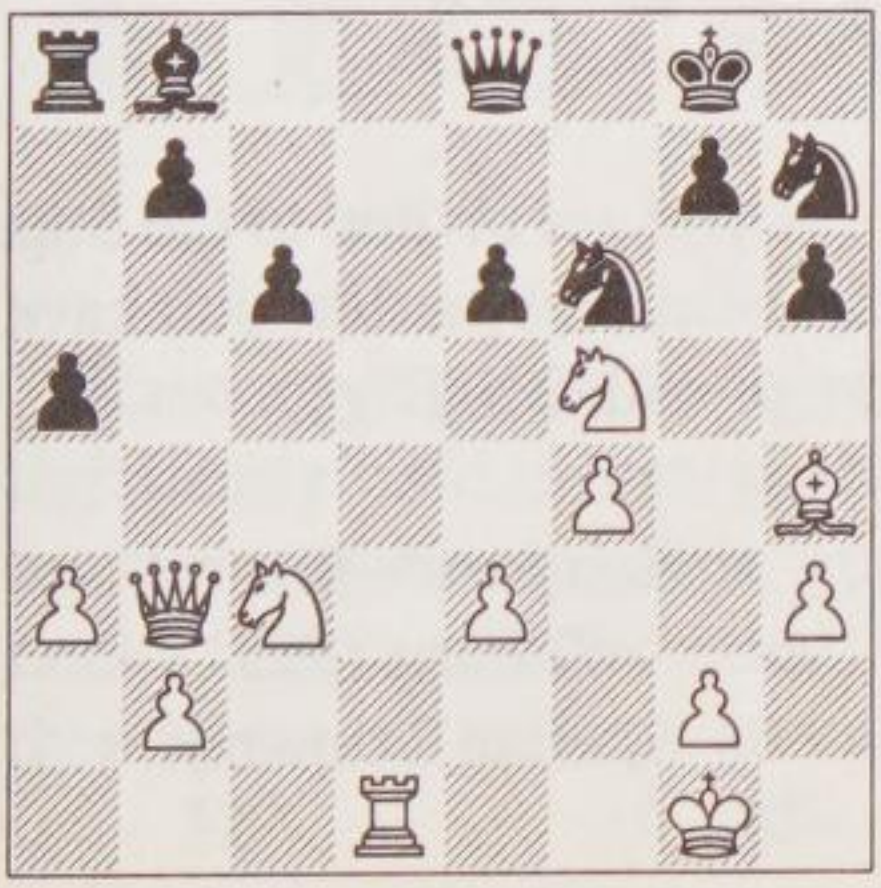
19 ... ♖d8

20	**♗e1**	**♘h7**
21	**♗h4**	**♘df6**
22	**♖ad1**	**♖xd1**
23	**♖xd1**	**♗e6?**

Anand blunders in a position where it is difficult to suggest reasonable alternatives, for example: 23...♗a7 24 ♘xh6+ gxh6 25 ♕g6+ ♔h8 26 ♗xf6+ winning for White, and 23...♗xf5 24 ♕xf5 ♗a7 25 ♗f2 ♖e8 26 e4 ♗xf2+ 27 ♔xf2 with a clear advantage to White.

24	**♗xe6**	**fxe6**
25	**♕b3**	**♕e8** *(D)*

The alternatives 25...♘d5 26 ♘e7+ ♘xe7 27 ♕xe6+ ♕f7 28 ♖d8+ ♘f8 29 ♕xe7 and 25...♕f7 26 ♖d8+ ♘f8 27 ♘d6 ♕e7 28 ♘xb7 both give Karpov a decisive advantage.



W

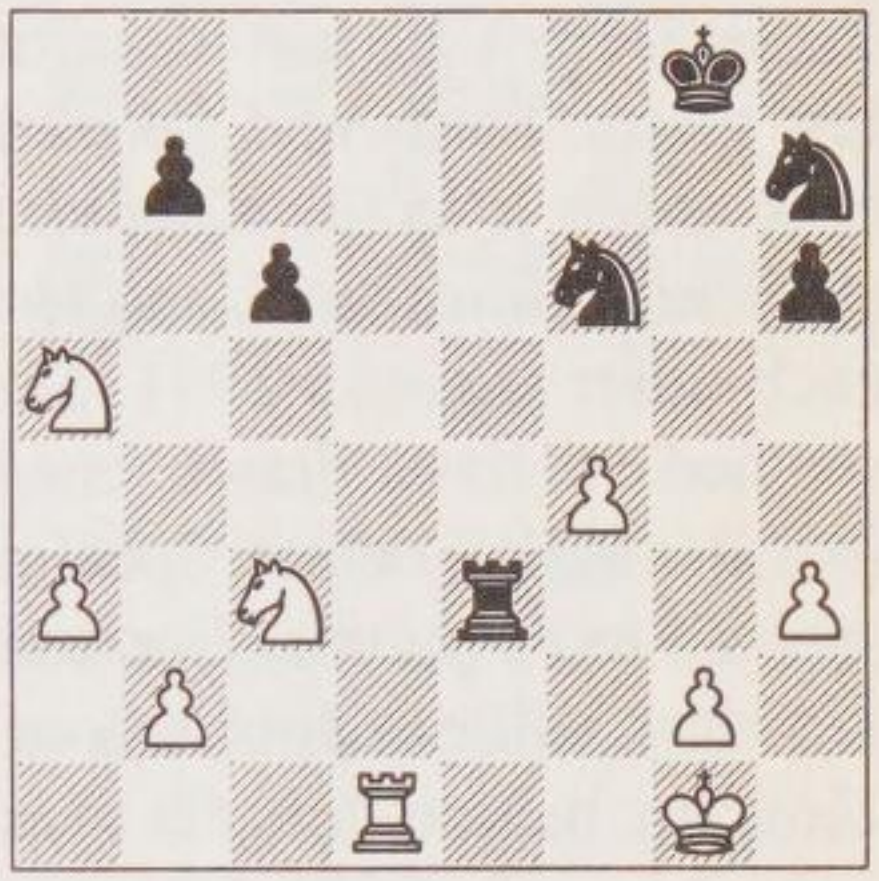
26 ♘xg7!

Now Anand's position falls apart.

26	**...**	**♕f7**

26...♔xg7 27 ♕xb7+ ♗c7 28 ♕xc7+.

27	**♘xe6**	**♗a7**
28	**♗f2**	**♖e8**
29	**♘d4**	**♕xb3**
30	**♘xb3**	**♗xe3**
31	**♗xe3**	**♖xe3**
32	**♘xa5** *(D)*	



B

Two pawns down in the ending, **Anand resigned**.

'It wasn't so much of a blow ... I simply lost to Karpov.'

I believe that in top-level chess it is not the mistakes that matter; everyone has a bad game, tournament or match. What matters is how the players pick up the pieces afterwards. Many players make one-off visits to the Candidates Cycle. They go a long way, and everyone starts speculating

that they may make it all the way. Then the wheels come off and they never seem to get them back on again.

Take England's Jon Speelman, who eliminated Nigel Short from the World Candidates Quarter Final in 1988. He played a brilliant match and came within an inch of defeating Jan Timman in the semi-final. He lost the critical last game. Short and Speelman both made it to the Candidates stage next time round, and faced each other again in 1991. Short seemed to have drawn energy from his earlier defeat. Speelman seemed to be playing like a man who had still not put his loss to Timman behind him. It was a very close match, Short's toughest in the whole cycle till he faced Gazza, and if anything Speelman played the better chess. But it was Short who won while Speelman retreated into relative obscurity.

Anand's temperament is very well suited to match play. He is optimistic, but he remains philosophical when things go wrong. He reacts to a setback positively, by rationalising why it all went wrong. Anand is a formidable cocktail, combining raw talent with a willingness for critical self-appraisal.

Anand's successes brought him into the big league; tournament invitations flowed. He had given the great Karpov a run for his money. He was polite, good humoured and with his lightning-fast play, a delight to the crowd. Being from the Third World, he was also something of a novelty. Anand accepts this fact without sensing any racist undertones. Asked by *New In Chess* whether he minded being presented as 'the dark guy from India who plays fast ... etc.', he replied with his usual rationality. 'No, it's partially true and people simply like labels ... It will be interesting for us to access them in a commercial sense.' Alongside Anand's hard-headed realism is a thinly veiled desire to make a lot of money.

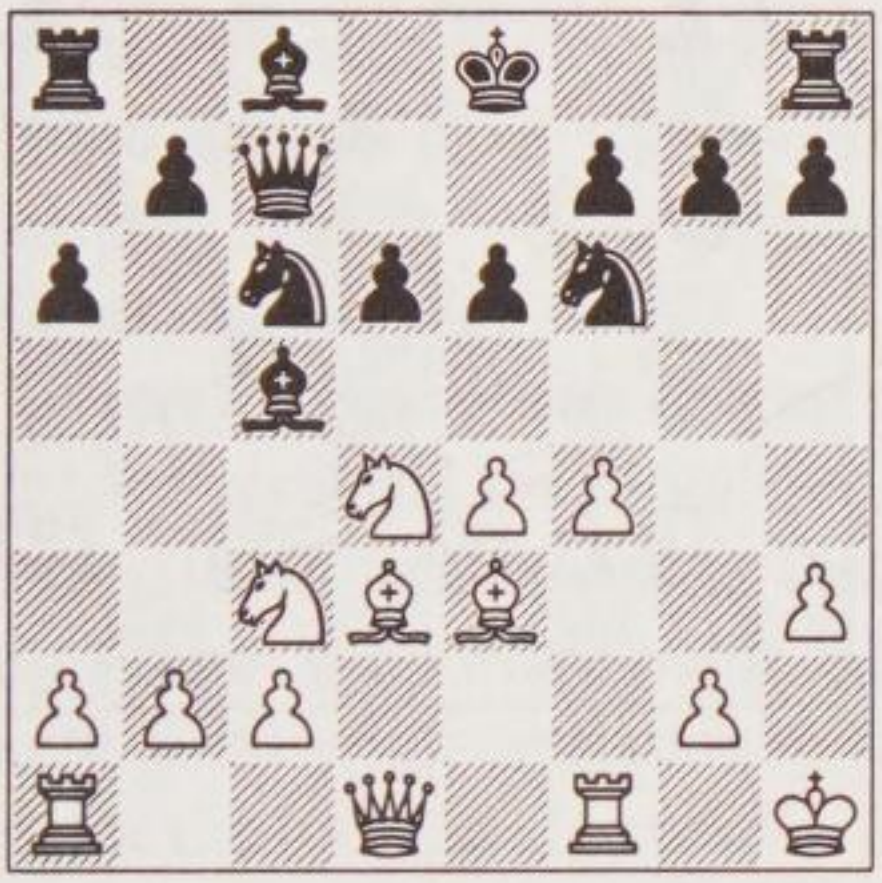
If you get invited to the Super-Grandmaster parties, you have to tango with Mr. Big...

Kasparov-Anand
Tilburg 1991
Sicilian Taimanov

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♕c7**
5	**♘c3**	**e6**

6	**♗e3**	**a6**
7	**♗d3**	**♘f6**
8	**0-0**	**♘e5**
9	**h3**	**♗c5**
10	**♔h1**	**d6**
11	**f4**	**♘c6?** *(D)*

This is a new move, but it turns out badly after Kasparov's energetic reply. Better is 11...♘ed7 as played by Mikhail Tal (World Champion 1960-1) against Najdorf back in 1970.



W

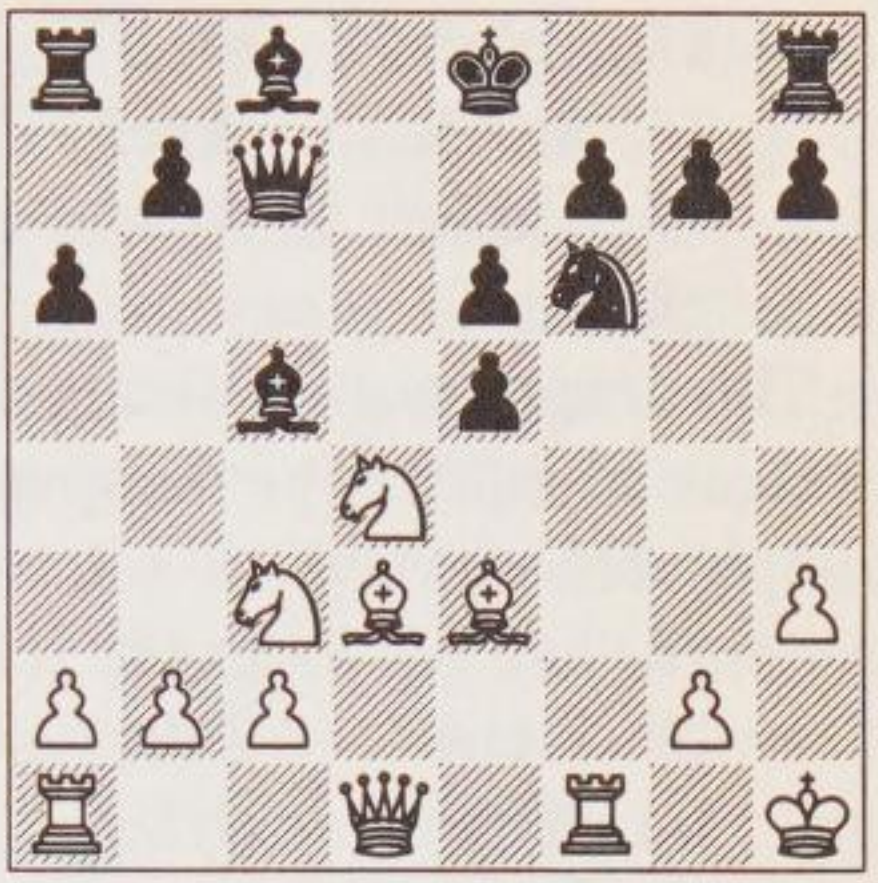
12 e5!

Kasparov plays a characteristically bold thrust, opening up the centre while his opponent's king is still uncastled, and thereby creating a huge attack.

12 ... ♘xe5

Here Anand has many possibilities, for example 12...dxe5, 12...♘d7, 12...♘d5 or 12...♗xd4 which all lead to huge complications as in the game. The move he chooses temporarily sacrifices a piece.

13 fxe5 dxe5 *(D)*



W

Now if the knight on d4 retreats the bishop on e3 is unprotected, so Kasparov is forced to take drastic action:

14 ♗b5+?!

Even though this spectacular move turns out well, Kasparov himself is critical, preferring 14 ♘db5 axb5 15 ♗xb5+ when he gives two variations:

a) 15...♗d7 16 ♗xd7+ ♘xd7 17 ♗xc5 ♕xc5 (17...♘xc5 18 ♘b5 winning) 18 ♖xf7 winning.

b) 15...♔e7 16 ♗g5 h6 17 ♗h4 ♗e3 18 ♘e4 ♗g5 (18...♗f4 19 ♖xf4 exf4 20 ♕d4 e5 21 ♗xf6+ gxf6 22 ♕b4+ ♔e6 23 g4!! fxg3 24 ♖f1 winning) 19 ♘xg5 hxg5 20 ♗xg5 with a clear advantage to White.

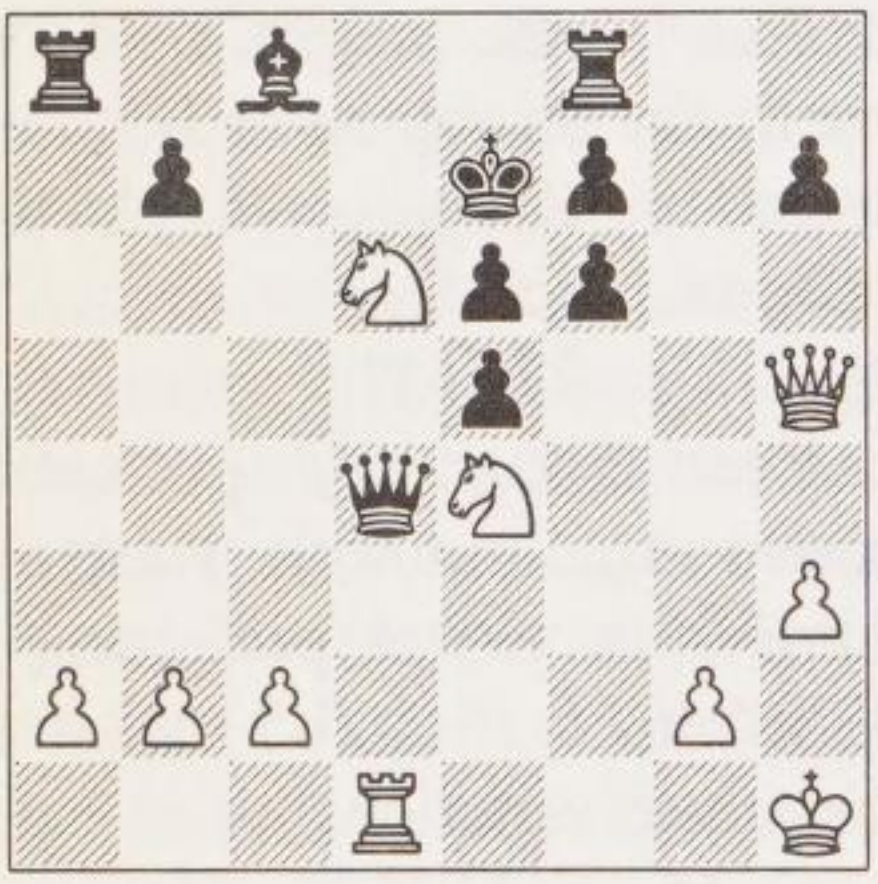
14 ... axb5?

Kasparov claims that 14...♔f8 was better, when after 15 ♖xf6! the position is still highly complicated.

15 ♘dxb5 ♕c6
16 ♗xc5 ♕xc5
17 ♘d6+ ♔e7
18 ♖xf6!

The knight was covering the crucial e4-square, so Kasparov simply removes it!

18 ... gxf6
19 ♘ce4 ♕d4
20 ♕h5 ♖f8
21 ♖d1! *(D)*



B

Although he is an exchange and a pawn down, Kasparov's pieces, especially his knights, are dominating the board. Anand's king is stuck hopelessly in the centre and Kasparov does not give his opponent a chance.

21 ... ♕e3
22 ♕h4 ♕f4
23 ♕e1!

Swinging the queen over to the queenside proves decisive.

23 ... ♖a4
24 ♕c3 ♖d4
25 ♖xd4 ♕f1+
26 ♔h2 exd4
27 ♕c5! ♔d7
28 ♘b5! ♕f4+
29 g3 *(D)*

B

Black resigned

Anand has no more checks and will get mated shortly, for example 29...♕xe4 30 ♕d6+ ♔e8 31 ♘c7 mate or 29...♕e5 30 ♘xf6+ ♔d8 31 ♕xf8 mate.

Towards the end of 1991 I was feeling rather excited; the world was opening up. My studies at Oxford were over and, unlike my friends, I had no student overdrafts to clear. Chess was certianly getting tougher every day,

but a grandmaster could still scrape a modest living; it was tempting to opt for the romantic life of a chess professional. Objectively, however, the long-term future appeared bleak. I looked at players who were semi-rivals when I'd gone to university in 1988; Anand, Mickey Adams and Jeroen Piket. No way would I even attempt to catch those guys. Fortunately, Banker's Trust, a US investment bank, were recruiting chess players and they offered me a job. First, I would take six weeks off travelling around India.

Chess is a good way to start a tour, so I entered the Goodricke International in Calcutta. That way I'd get my airfare paid, and might even win some money to pay for the touring afterwards. It was due to start January 6, 1992, so I booked my flight accordingly. At the last minute the organisers delayed the tournament a few days. I was rather angry but they explained they were accommodating a very important player.

I arrived in Calcutta in the company of Danny King, another English grandmaster. The *Calcutta Telegraph* explained that we had arrived early for 'acclimatisation purposes'. At a press conference the truth emerged: Anand was going to play and he needed time to get back from the Reggio Emilia tournament in Italy. The organisers proudly declared that Anand had a great fondness for their chess club. 'Consequently, he has agreed to play without expectation of an appearance fee.' This caused me to raise an eyebrow; Vishy is a nice guy but he isn't Mother Theresa.

Sipping tea in the garden of the Fairlwan Hotel is a very civilised experience. This colonial hotel is run by Mrs. Smith, her husband Major Smith and their white poodle – the only thing that looked clean in this hopelessly polluted city. It is situated in the heart of Calcutta, and the tea garden is like an island surrounded by a sea of lepers, beggars, cows and rats. I was enjoying tea and tiffin and reading the *Calcutta Telegraph*; the headline was 'Anand Beats World Champion'...

Kasparov-Anand

Reggio Emilia 1991/2

French

1	**e4**	**e6**
2	**d4**	**d5**
3	**♘d2**	**c5**
4	**exd5**	**♕xd5**

5 dxc5 *(D)*

B

The standard move here is 5 ♘gf3 instead of 5 dxc5, when after 5...cxd4 6 ♗c4 White rapidly completes his development. However, the move played by Kasparov is relatively tame and is known to give Black an easy game. After the game Anand said that he had been encouraged that Kasparov had avoided theory as early as this. When Kasparov avoids theory, there is definitely something wrong!

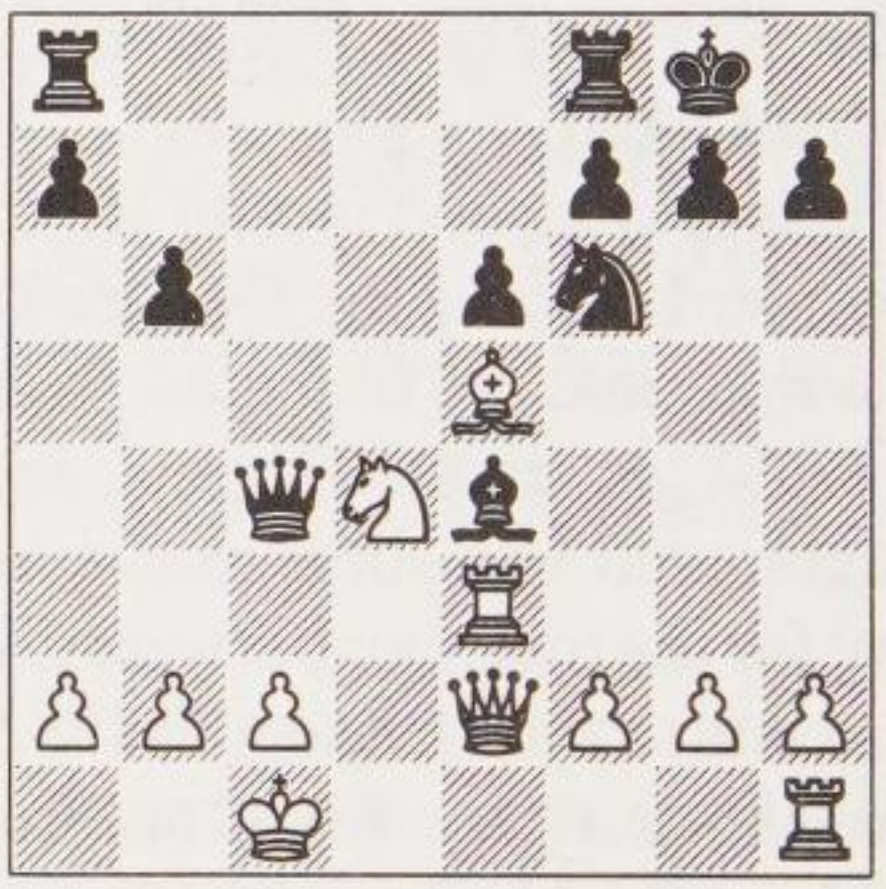
5	**...**	**♗xc5**
6	**♘gf3**	**♘f6**
7	**♗d3**	**0-0**
8	**♕e2**	**♘bd7**
9	**♘e4**	**b6!**

Anand gives up the two bishops in favour of quick development.

10	**♘xc5**	**♕xc5**
11	**♗e3**	**♕c7**
12	**♗d4**	**♗b7**
13	**0-0-0**	

After his quiet opening Kasparov declares more aggressive intentions by castling queenside. Immediate kingside castling was bad due to 13 0-0 ♘g4 (threatening 14...♗xf3 and 15...♕xh2 mate) 14 ♗xh7+ ♔h8!.

13	**...**	**♘c5!**
14	**♗e5**	**♘xd3+**
15	**♖xd3**	**♕c4**
16	**♘d4**	**♗e4!**
17	**♖e3** *(D)*	



B

17 ... ♕xa2!

Anand could have equalised easily by exchanging queens: 17...♕xe2 18 ♖xe2 ♗b7 (not 18...♗xg2?? 19 ♖g1 ♗d5 20 ♗xf6 winning a piece). However, the temptation is too great and he enters the complications with typical bravery by grabbing the a-pawn.

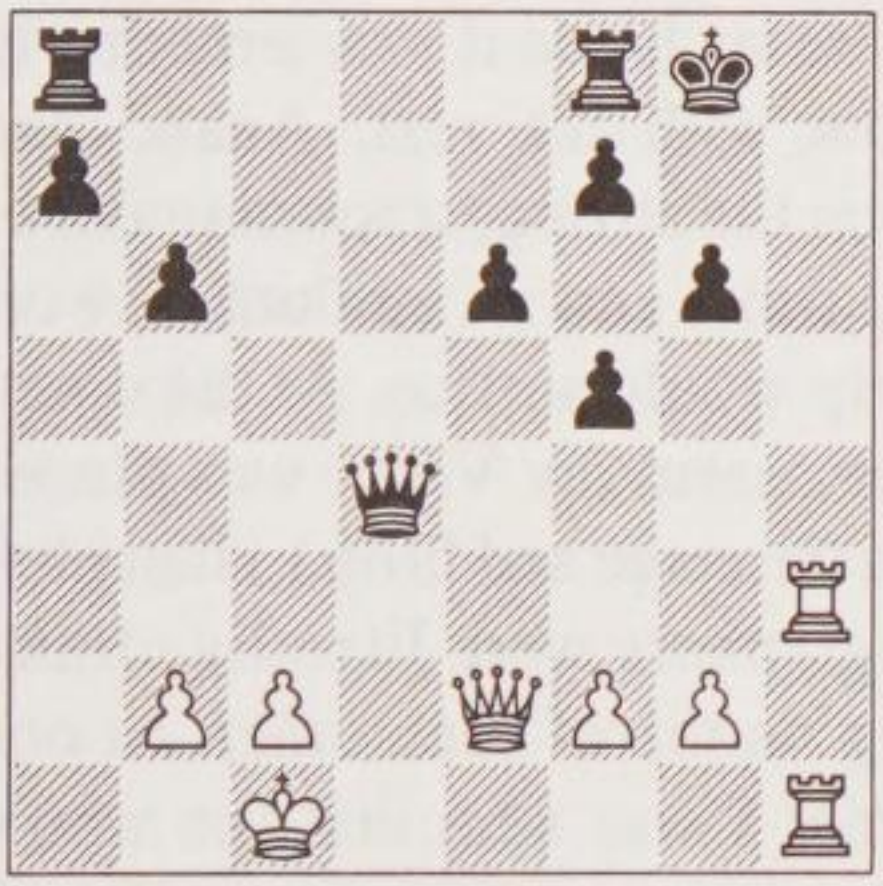
18 ♗xf6

18 ♖xe4? ♕a1+ 19 ♔d2 ♘xe4+ wins.

18	**...**	**♗g6!**
19	**♖a3**	**♕d5**
20	**h4**	

The point of 17...♕xa2 is seen now, since White has no way of hanging on to his extra piece due to the lines 20 ♗e5 f6! and 20 ♕e5 ♕xg2!.

20	**...**	**gxf6**
21	**h5**	**♕xd4**
22	**hxg6**	**hxg6**
23	**♖ah3**	**f5!** *(D)*



W

Anand finds the only defence, giving his king an escape route via f6, and opening up the h8-d4 diagonal for his queen to help in the defence. However, although he is two pawns down, Kasparov still has a dangerous attack.

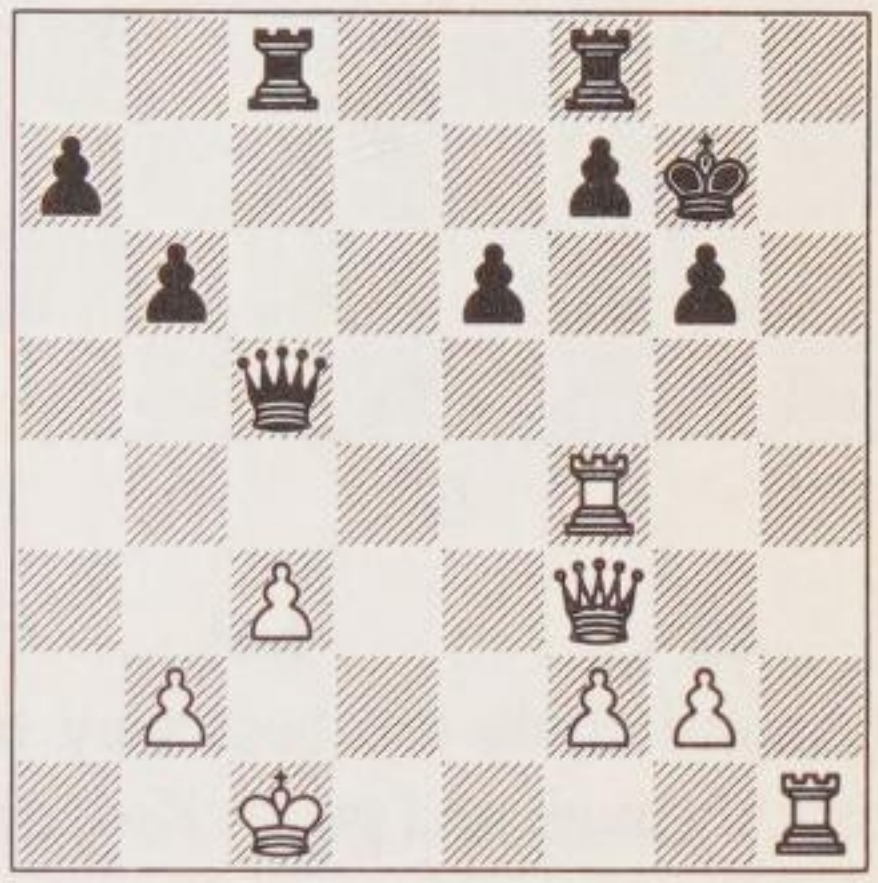
24	**♖h4**	**f4**
25	**♕f3?**	

Later Kasparov claimed that 25 g3 leads to equality; for example 25...♖ac8 26 gxf4:

a) 26...♕f6 27 ♕e5 (27 ♕e3 ♖c5 28 ♕h3 ♕xh4! 29 ♕xh4 ♖h5=) 27...♕xe5 28 fxe5 g5 29 ♖h5 ♖fd8=.

b) 26...♖c5 27 f5 ♕f6 28 fxg6 fxg6 29 ♖h8+ ♕xh8 30 ♕xe6+ ♔g7 31 ♕e7+ ♖f7=.

25	**...**	**♖ac8**
26	**♖xf4**	**♕c5**
27	**c3**	**♔g7** *(D)*

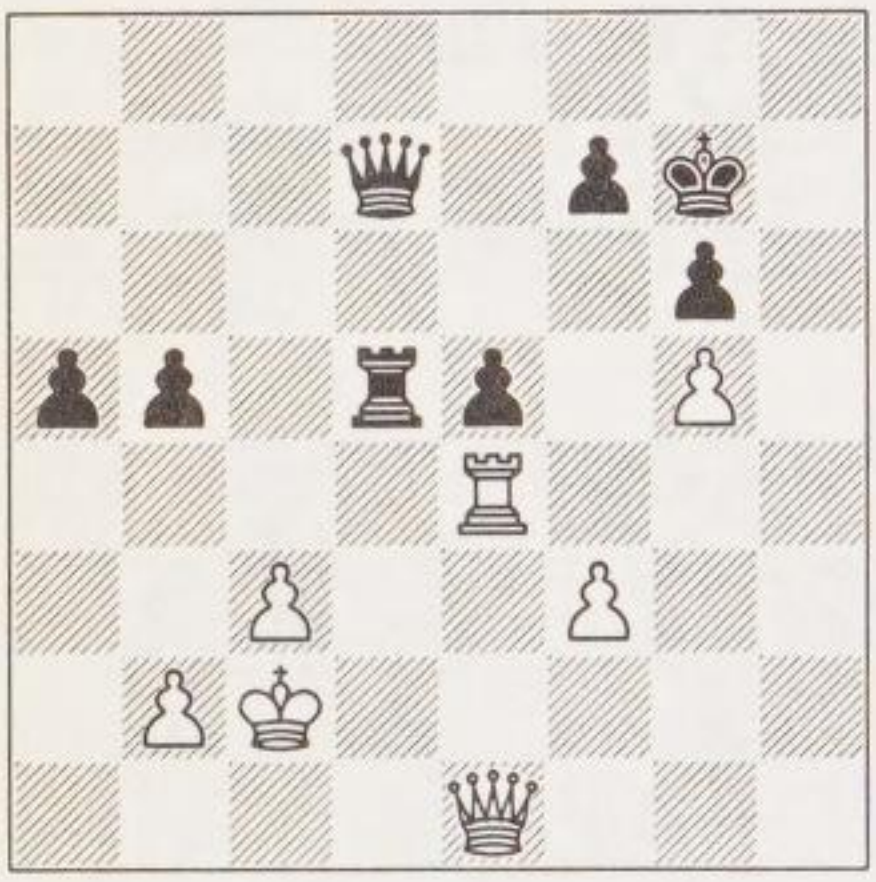


W

By sacrificing one of his f-pawns Anand has repulsed the attack and is left with an extra pawn in the endgame.

28	**...**	**♕e5**
29	**g3**	**♕e1+**
30	**♔c2**	**♖cd8**
31	**♖d4**	**♕e5**
32	**♖hf4**	**♕c7**
33	**♕e3**	**e5**
34	**♖xd8**	**♖xd8**

35	**♖e4**	**♖d5**
36	**g4**	**b5**
37	**g5**	**♕d6**
38	**f3**	**a5**
39	**♕e2**	**♕e6**
40	**♕h2**	**♕f5**
41	**♕g3**	**♕d7**
42	**♕e1** *(D)*	



B

42 ... b4!

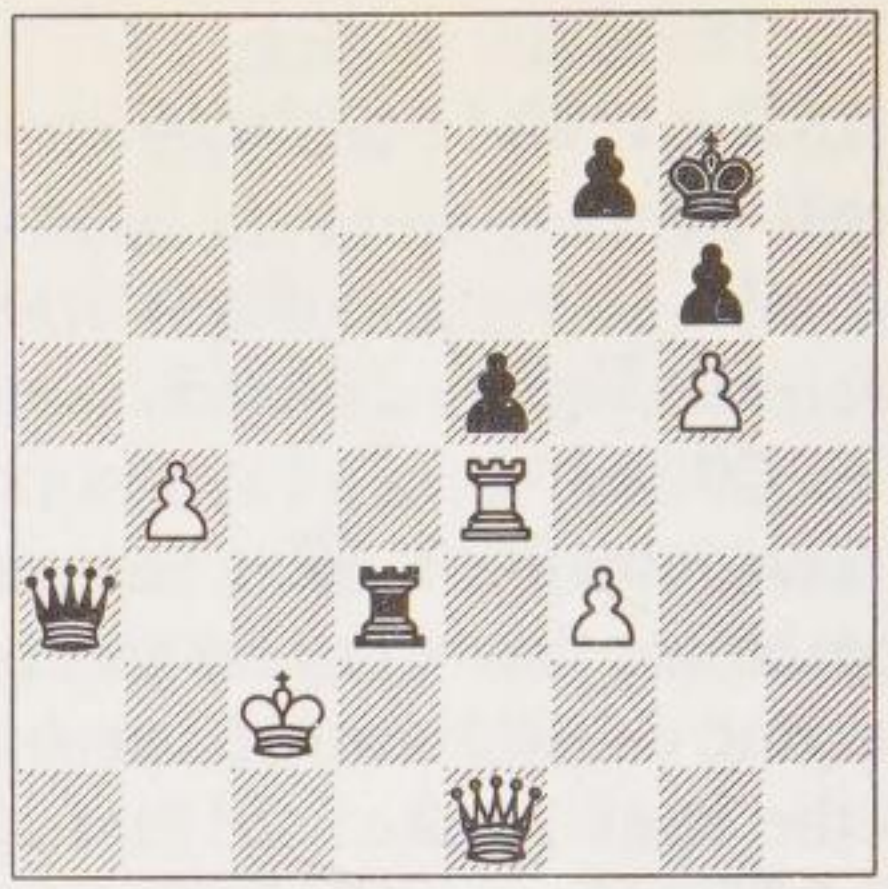
Anand finds the best way to break through and get to Kasparov's king.

43 cxb4

43 ♖xe5 ♕a4+ 44 ♔c1 bxc3 wins.

43	**...**	**♕a4+**
44	**b3**	**♕a2+**
45	**♔c3**	**a4**
46	**bxa4**	**♕a3+**
47	**♔c2**	**♕xa4+**
48	**♔c3**	**♕a3+**
49	**♔c2**	**♖d3** *(D)*

Here **Kasparov resigned** as his king has no escape.



W

I didn't fancy joining the throng that met Vishy at the airport but when he turned up at the tournament hall, the laudations were such that it was tempting to bow with the rest. Anand had won the strongest tournament of all time, and no amount of worship would suffice. At the opening ceremony Vishy was placed on the stage and little Indian photographers were literally climbing on top of each other. At one point I was sure that the whole gang were going to topple off stage, bringing a few dignitaries down with them. Vishy wore a bemused smile.

Anand's parents were with him in Calcutta but it was difficult for him to relax. I drew with Anand in round 4, but then he faced Danny King and lost with the white pieces. The crowd was clearly disappointed and Anand

had problems focusing. I think that Calcutta gave me a glimpse of what was to go wrong in Sanghi Nagar. Vishy is a brilliant player who wins because he finds strong moves, but he isn't a god. That is too much of a responsibility.

Vishy limped back to share first with King, myself and his old foe Alexei Dreev, although he was relegated to 4th on tie-break. Danny took the title, and I came in second. The prize money was not huge but it was enough to last me to Mysore. The tournament included a very strong contingent of East European grandmasters. They seemed incapable of even trying to play chess; the Indians looked on bemused as the ex-Commies agreed 10 move draw after 10 move draw with each other.

8 Playing the Circuit

The chess world is a fascinating place. Sometimes it seems nothing more than an arena for badly-dressed social misfits carrying on their petty rivalries; an introverted existence, something beneath the real world. When I am frustrated with chess, after a bad few losses, my comfort lies in believing that I'm not part of *their* world. At other times it seems like the only existence, the only place where truth matters. In most other walks of life you can hide behind bullshit, not on the chessboard.

Since glasnost, life has got very tough. There are more, and stronger, players. Apart from at the very top, prize funds have decreased. Nearly every professional I know has talked about giving up. Some do, but most find a way to struggle on, forcing themselves to struggle that much harder. As one American GM put it: 'Get better, or get out.'

Every player goes through self-doubt. What if I don't make it to the top? How will I survive for the rest of my life? These fears are understandable, especially with younger and younger prodigies snapping at their ankles. Even Vishy Anand, super-talent that he is, is not immune from these fears. That was why he studied at university, a degree in commerce – 'something to fall back on.' It is an amusing image. Anand, about to compete for several million dollars, studying away so that if things went wrong, well, he could go and get a proper job.

Anand should not need to worry. Even if he loses to Kasparov he will not starve. Considering that chess is not a popular spectator sport, the top players actually make quite a lot of money. Kasparov and Karpov are both multi-millionaires. A leading player like Anand will make upwards of $100,000 a year, even if he is not in the World Championship cycle. These kind of sums only really exist for a handful of top players, but this is at least as good as other sports with a similar public profile.

There is one trend in chess which should be good for Vishy: it's getting faster. More and more tournaments are opting for Rapid Chess, where each player has

just 25 minutes for all their moves. This chess is more appealing for spectators and television, and more likely to attract serious money. Chip manufacturer Intel have already begun to sponsor a Grand Prix Circuit with several hundred thousand dollars in prizes. For a whirlwind like Vishy, this is fast money.

Another development in chess, which may explain Intel's involvement, is in the sphere of artificial intelligence. Computers have become very good at playing the royal game. The chess software has improved dramatically and when it is powered by microprocessors like Intel's Pentium it becomes lethal. Computers still do not have the strategic understanding to defeat grandmasters frequently in slow games, but at blitz chess where tactics are more important, they are virtually unbeatable.

In the spring of 1994, Intel sponsored a blitz tournament in Munich. The condition was that *Fritz 3*, a freely available computer program, would compete on a Pentium processor. It surprised everyone by tying for first place with Kasparov, beating the Champion *en route*. Only in the play-off did Gazza master the machine – but he then spoilt the effect by losing to it on live television. It also beat several of the world's best, including blitz king Vishy. Anand's comment after the game made it into his favourite magazine *The Economist*. 'When I watched *Terminator,* I used to feel sorry for the machine, but not any more!'

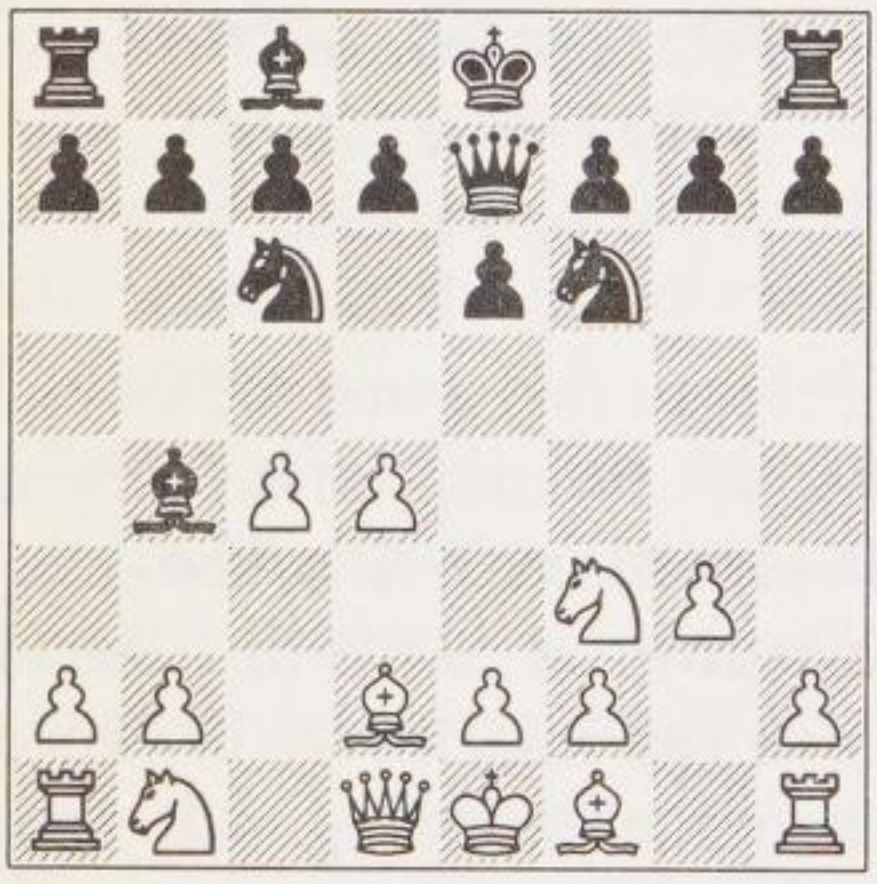
Vishy had his chance for revenge when he met the Pentium in London, this time powering a prototype of *Chess Genius 3*.

Pentium Genius-Anand
PCA /Intel Grand Prix
London 1994
Bogo-Indian

Prior to this game the Genius program running on a Pentium had sensationally knocked Garry Kasparov out in the first round, which had resulted in the World Champion storming off stage vowing revenge, and to prove that this was no fluke it had also dispatched the respected Bosnian Grandmaster Predrag Nikolić in the next round. There was also a potential problem brewing in that the favourite in the other semi-final, Vasily Ivanchuk, had stated that he would refuse to play against the computer if they met in the final. Thus to avoid this slightly farcical situation,

everyone was hoping that Anand would restore the battered pride of the human race and put his silicon opponent firmly in its place. After the results of the previous days however, there were not many amongst the watching grandmasters who were prepared to bet against the computer.

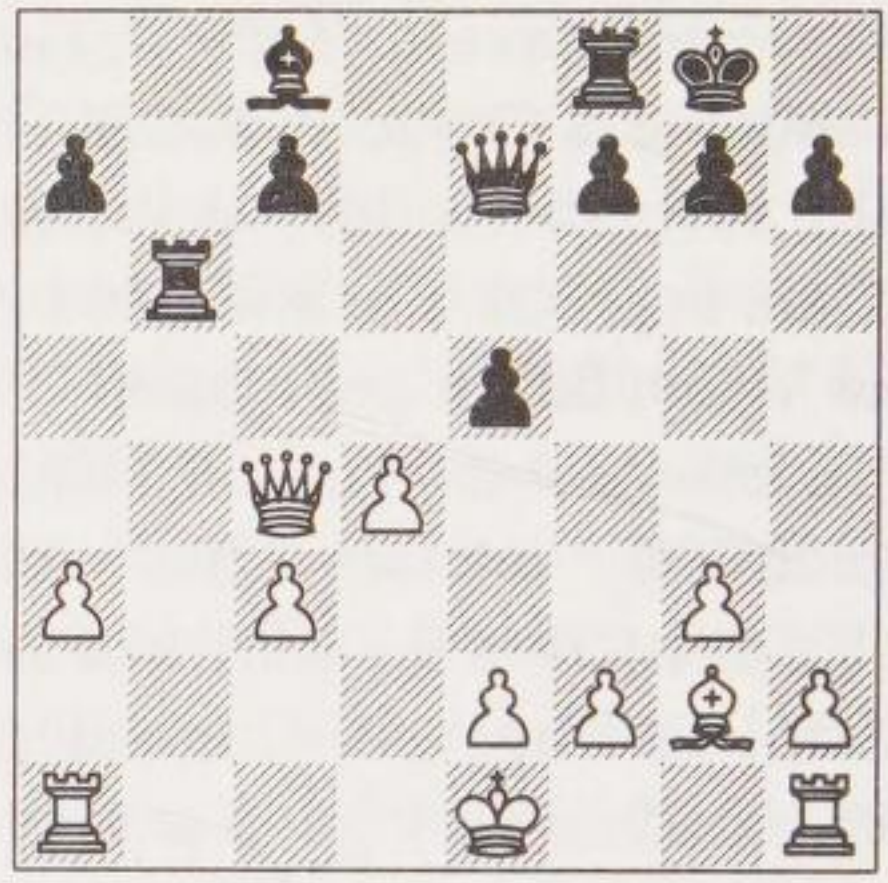
1	**d4**	**♘f6**
2	**♘f3**	**e6**
3	**c4**	**♗b4+**
4	**♗d2**	**♕e7**
5	**g3**	**♘c6** *(D)*



W

Anand deliberately plays an unusual variation to try to lure the Pentium Genius into an unfamiliar position.

6	**♘c3**	**0-0**
7	**♗g2**	**d5**
8	**a3**	**♗xc3**
9	**♗xc3**	**dxc4**
10	**♘e5**	**♘d5**
11	**♘xc6**	**bxc6**
12	**♕a4**	**♘xc3**
13	**bxc3**	**e5**
14	**♕xc6**	**♖b8**
15	**♕xc4**	**♖b6** *(D)*



W

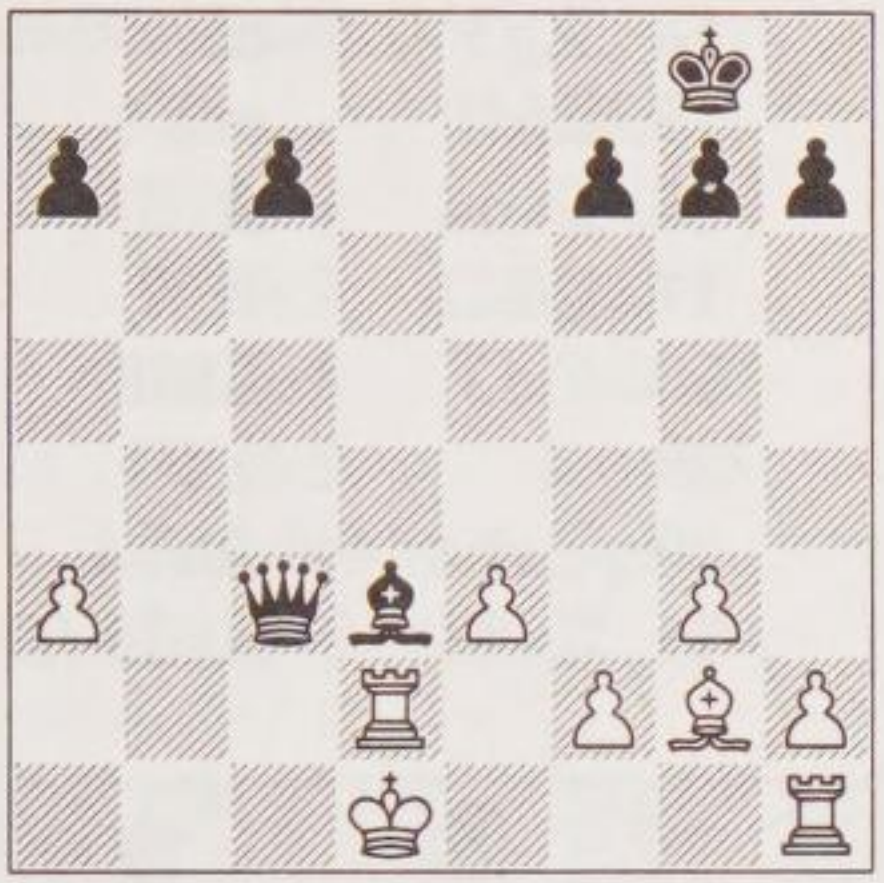
The Genius's next move drew gasps of astonishment from everyone watching, and showed up the main weakness of chess programs – their greed.

16 e3??

Any human master playing White would be concerned about the safety of the king stuck in the centre, and give back the pawn by, for example 16 0-0 ♗a6 17 ♕a4 exd4 18 cxd4 ♕xe2 with a likely draw. However, the computer sees a chance to hold on to its extra pawn and does so without regard to its king, which now becomes permanently trapped in the centre.

16	**...**	**♗a6**
17	**♕a4**	**♖fb8**

18	**♖d1**	**exd4**
19	**♕xd4**	**♖d6**
20	**♕a4**	**♕f6**
21	**♖xd6**	**♕xc3+**
22	**♖d2**	**♖b1+**
23	**♕d1**	**♖xd1+**
24	**♔xd1**	**♗d3** *(D)*



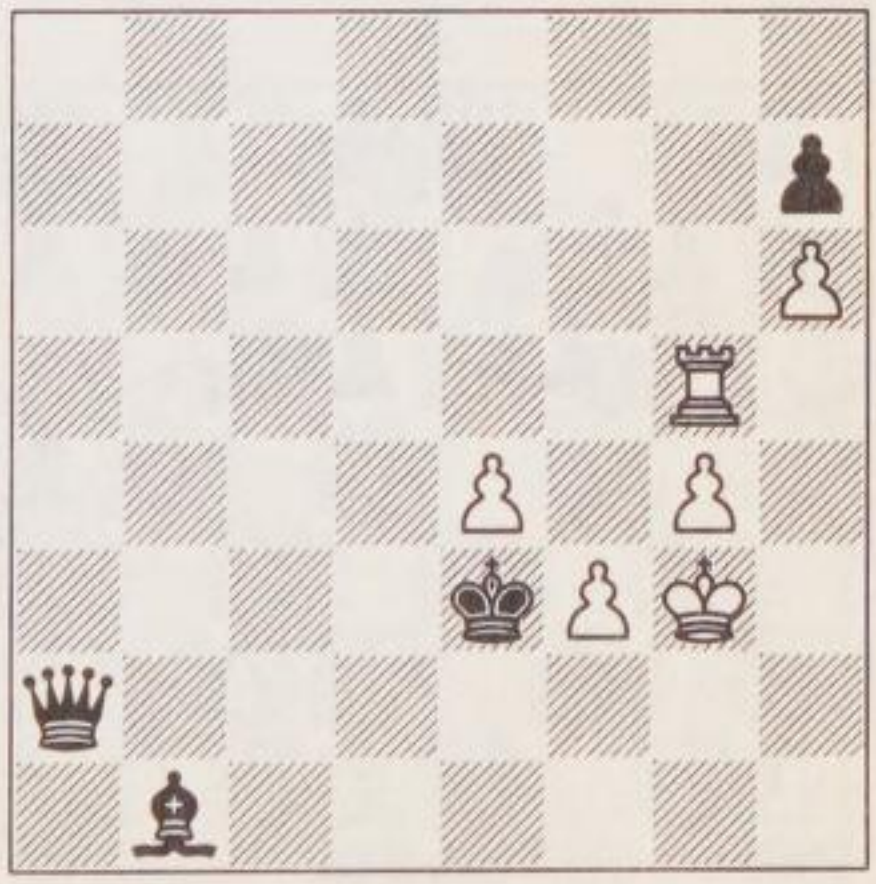
W

Two rooks would normally be a match for a queen, but here the rooks are completely passive and can do nothing to stop Anand's queenside pawns from marching down the board.

25	**♔e1**	**♕xa3**
26	**♗f3**	**g6**
27	**♗e2**	**♗f5**
28	**h4**	**♕c3**
29	**h5**	**g5**
30	**h6**	**♔f8**
31	**♗f3**	**c5**
32	**♖h5**	**f6**
33	**♖h2**	**c4**
34	**g4**	**♗d3**
35	**♗e2**	**♗b1**
36	**♗f3**	**a5**
37	**♗d1**	**♕b4**
38	**f3**	**a4**
39	**♖hf2**	**a3**
40	**♔f1**	**c3**

Chess Genius has achieved absolutely nothing in the last 15 moves, but now Anand's pawns are ready for touchdown.

41	**♖d8+**	**♔f7**
42	**♖a8**	**c2**
43	**♖a7+**	**♔e6**
44	**♖a6+**	**♔f7**
45	**♖a7+**	**♔e6**
46	**♖a6+**	**♔d5**
47	**♗xc2**	**♗xc2**
48	**♔g2**	**♗b1**
49	**♖xf6**	**♕a5**
50	**e4+**	**♔d4**
51	**♖f5**	**♕a6**
52	**♖xg5**	**a2**
53	**♖xa2**	**♕xa2+**
54	**♔g3**	**♔e3** *(D)*



W

White resigns.

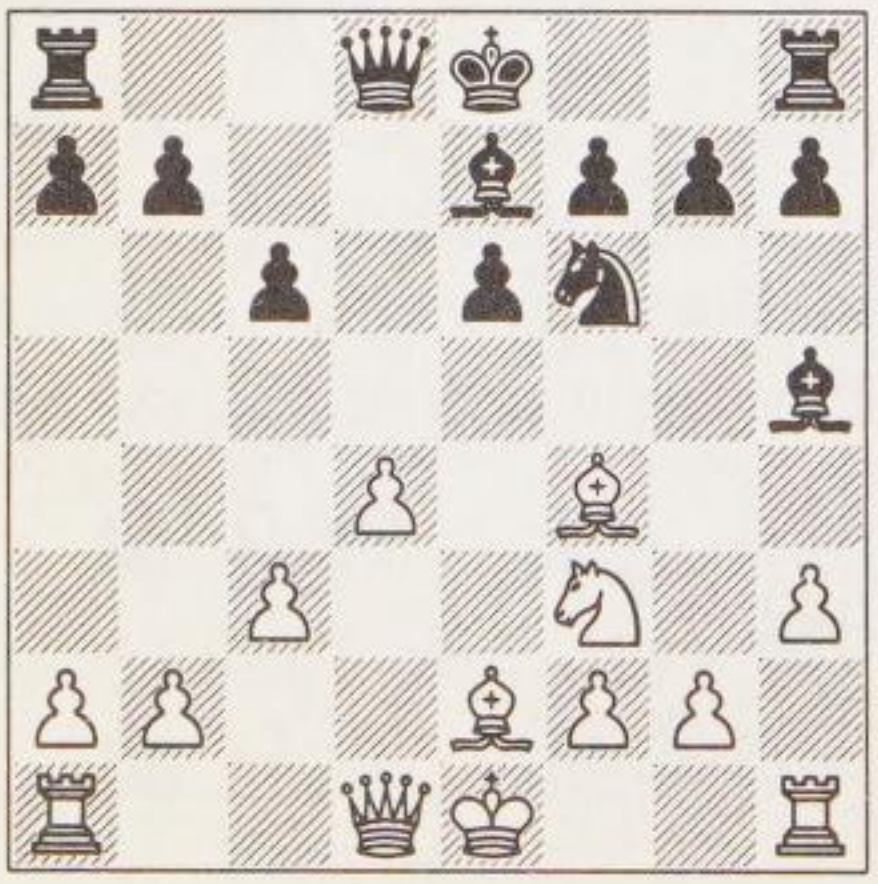
It will soon be mate, so the Pentium Genius's operators decided to pull the plug.

Anand-Pentium Genius
PCA /Intel Grand Prix
London 1994
Caro-Kann

1	**e4**	**c6**
2	**d4**	**d5**
3	**♘c3**	**dxe4**
4	**♘xe4**	**♘d7**
5	**♘f3**	**♘gf6**
6	**♘xf6+**	

Having won the first game Anand only needed to draw to go through to the final, so he is happy to exchange pieces.

6	**...**	**♘xf6**
7	**c3**	**♗g4**
8	**h3**	**♗h5**
9	**♗e2**	**e6**
10	**♗f4**	**♗e7** *(D)*

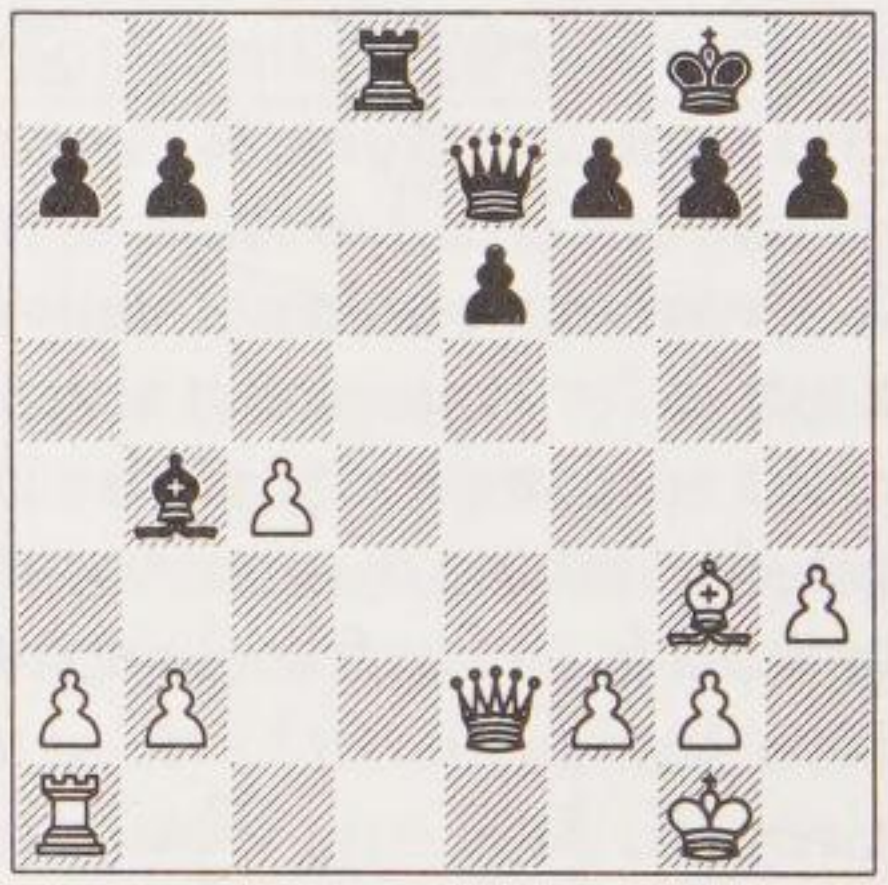


W

11	**0-0**	**0-0**
12	**♘e5**	

Anand swaps off pieces just as fast as possible, until he eventually reaches a king and pawn endgame.

12	**...**	**♗xe2**
13	**♕xe2**	**♘d5**
14	**♗g3**	**c5**
15	**♖fd1**	**cxd4**
16	**♖xd4**	**♗c5**
17	**♖dd1**	**♕e7**
18	**♘d3**	**♖fd8**
19	**c4**	**♘b4**
20	**♘xb4**	**♗xb4**
21	**♖xd8+**	**♖xd8** *(D)*



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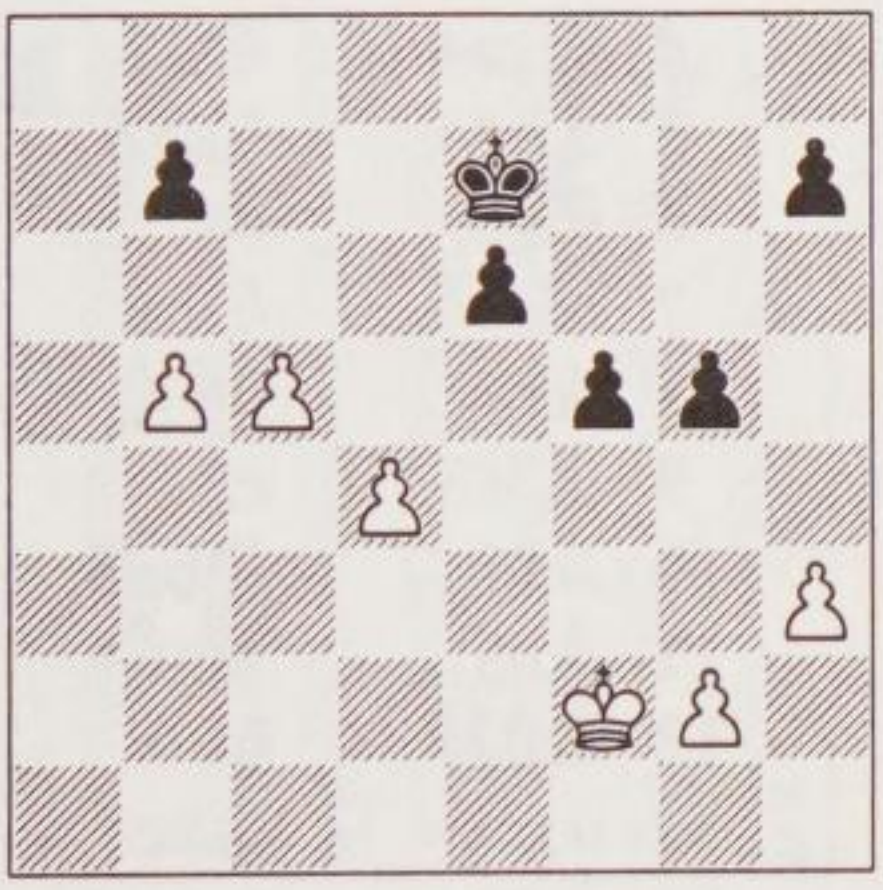
22	**♖d1**	**♖xd1+**
23	**♕xd1**	**♗c5**
24	**♗f4**	**g6**
25	**♕d2**	**♕f6**
26	**♗e3**	**♗xe3**
27	**fxe3**	**♔g7**
28	**♕d4**	**♕xd4**
29	**exd4**	

The Pentium Genius, blissfully unaware of the need to win the game, has happily gone along with its opponent's strategy to reach this drawn king and pawn endgame. Anand was expecting the game to end peacefully in a few moves, but he was in for a pleasant surprise.

29	**...**	**f5**
30	**b4**	**♔f6**
31	**c5**	**a6**
32	**a4**	**♔e7**
33	**b5**	**axb5**
34	**axb5**	**g5**
35	**♔f2** *(D)*	



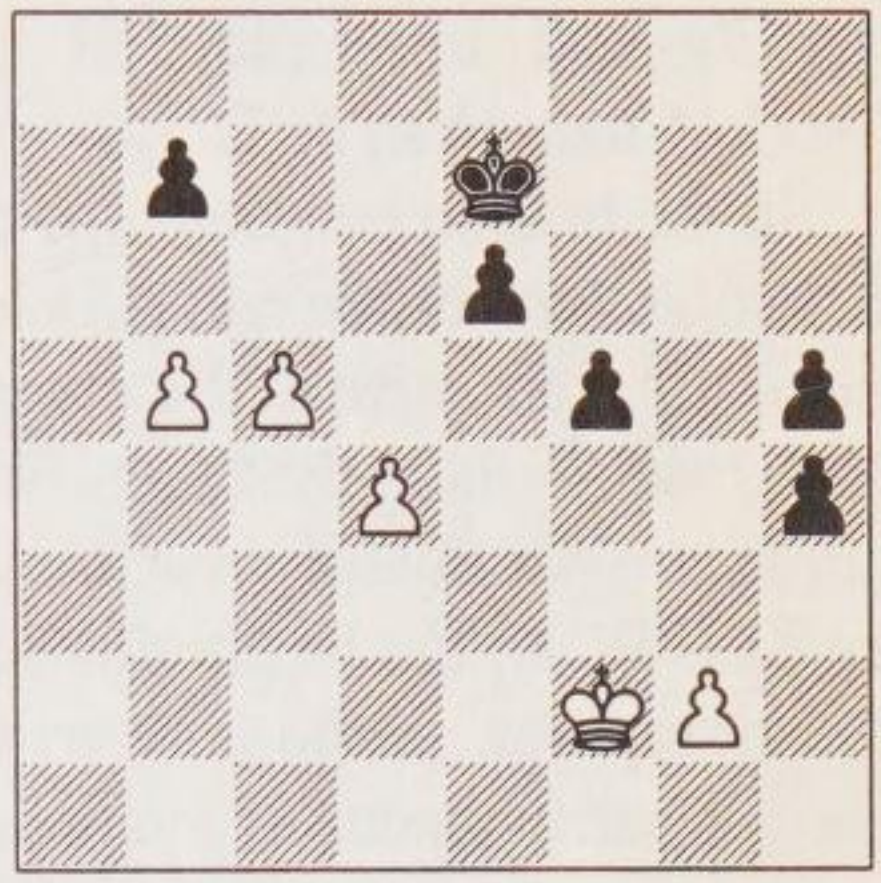
B

35 ... h5??

Simply 35...h6 followed by waiting with ...♔e7-d7-e7 would have drawn.

36 h4! gxh4 *(D)*

After 36...g4 the white king infiltrates on the kingside with ♔e3-f4-g5. Black's problem is that its king is tied to the queenside to stop the white pawns queening, and so is powerless to prevent the white king from mopping up the kingside pawns.



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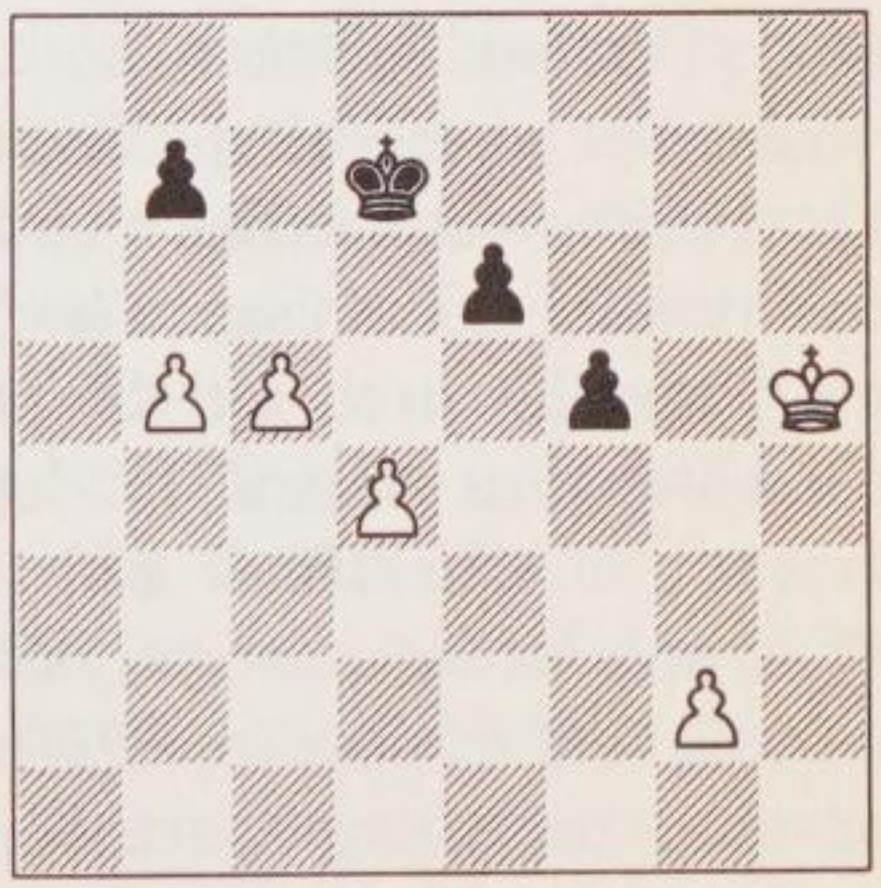
37	**♔f3**	**♔e8**
38	**♔f4**	**♔d7**
39	**♔g5**	**♔d8**
40	**♔xh4**	**♔d7**
41	**♔xh5** *(D)*	



B

Black resigned.

A pawn down and completely lost, the operators again threw in the towel for the computer. Anand had again found a simple strategy that exposed the program's weaknesses, a task that earlier had been beyond the World Champion.

So the human had defeated the machine, but certain rumours left an unpleasant taste in the mouth. Hints were made that there was some conspiracy between Anand and the PCA that he should beat the computer, perhaps to avoid the embarrassment of Ivanchuk defaulting. Personally, I believe there is no substance to these rumours and such a ploy would certainly be grossly out of character for Anand. As Vishy states indignantly: 'If I had lost I would simply have been a human who got wiped out by the cerebral genius of the Pentium. I can't win.'

Editor's note: The specific allegation/rumour was that an inferior version of the *Chess Genius* program was used for the two games against Anand. Frederic Friedel, of ChessBase and the PCA, provided an extremely convincing refutation, by giving positions from the games to identical computers with the identical software to that used in the Kasparov games. With the same time limits, it played exactly the same moves. Anyone with the necessary hardware, and time to kill, could verify this.

Beating a machine is one thing, but beating a space man is another...

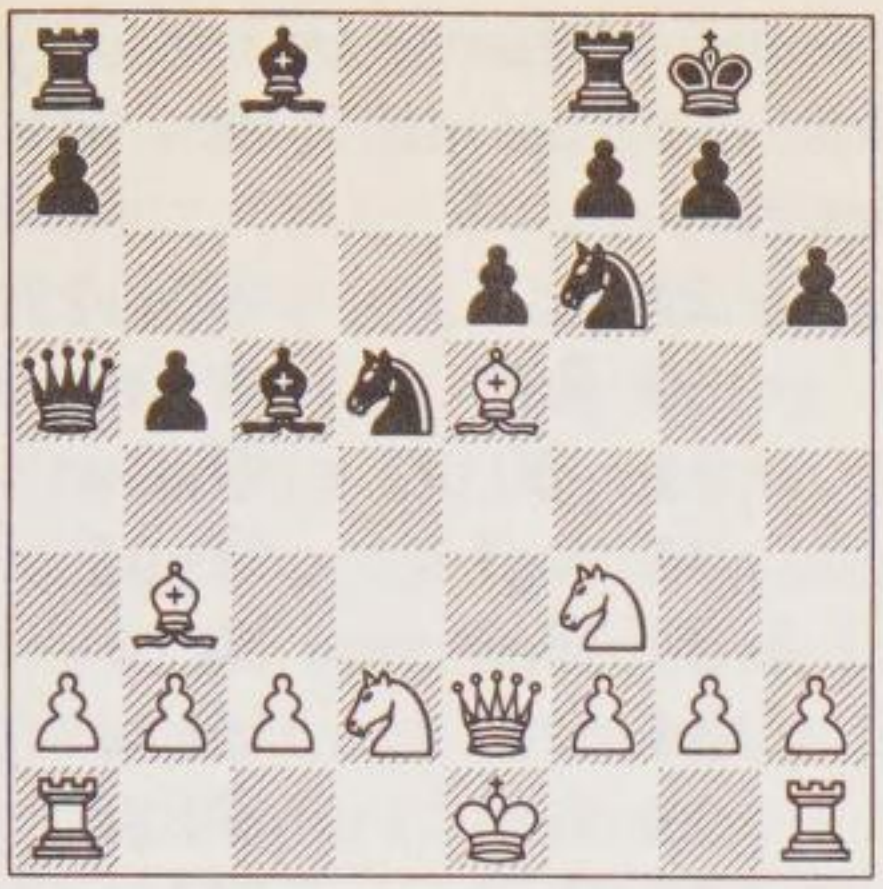
Anand-Ivanchuk
PCA / Intel Grand Prix
London 1994
Caro-Kann

1	**e4**	**c6**
2	**♘c3**	**d5**
3	**d4**	**dxe4**
4	**♘xe4**	**♘d7**
5	**♗c4**	**♘gf6**
6	**♘g5**	**e6**
7	**♕e2**	**♘b6**
8	**♗b3**	**h6**
9	**♘5f3**	**c5**
10	**♗f4**	**♘bd5**
11	**♗e5**	**♕a5+**
12	**♘d2**	**b5**
13	**dxc5**	**♗xc5**
14	**♘f3**	**0-0** *(D)*
15	**0-0-0**	

15 0-0 is certainly far safer, but with White Anand is determined to play for the win in the first of the two 10-minute play-offs.

15	**...**	**♗b7**
16	**g4!**	**♘d7**

Ivanchuk does not dare take the g-pawn, which would open



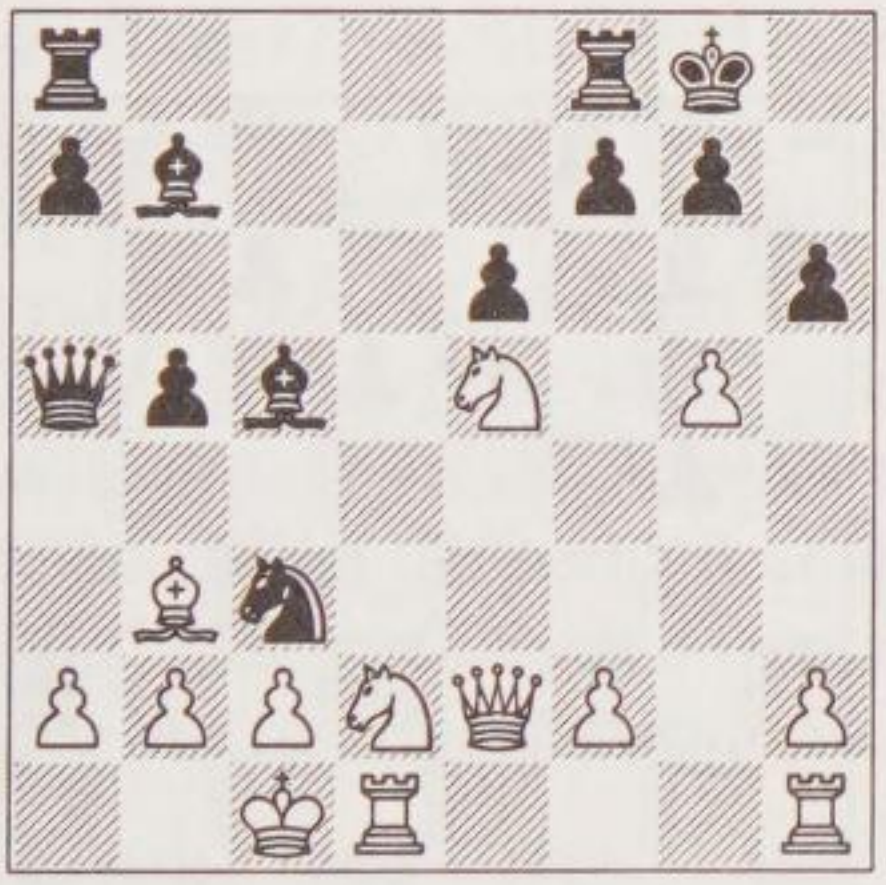
W

keeps the g-file closed. After the immediate 20...♕xa2? 21 hxg6 it is suddenly Ivanchuk's king that is in trouble.

21	**♕xh5**	**♕xa2**
22	**♘b3**	**♗xf2**
23	**♖d3**	**♖ac8**
24	**♖h3** *(D)*	

up the g-file for the white rooks to attack Black's king.

17	**g5**	**♘xe5**
18	**♘xe5**	**♘c3** *(D)*

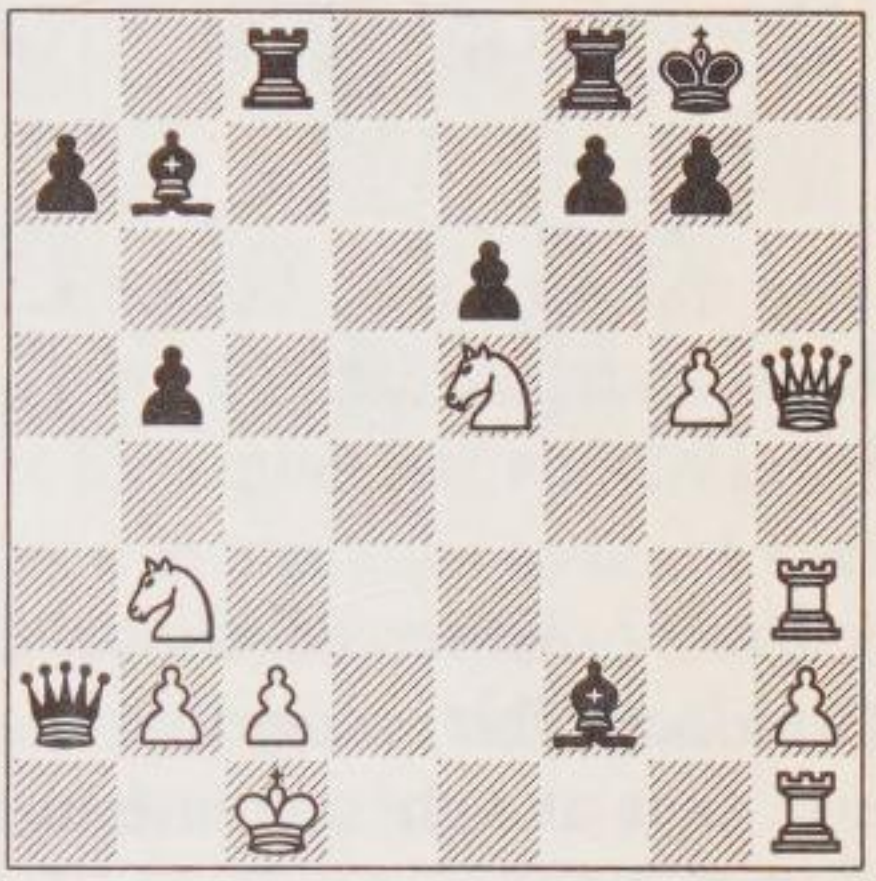


W

Suddenly Anand is in trouble, as 19 bxc3? allows 19...♗a3+ 20 ♔b1 ♕xc3 exposing the weak dark squares near White's king.

19	**♕g4**	**♘xa2+**
20	**♗xa2**	**h5!**

A very important 'zwischenzug', or 'in-between' move, which



B

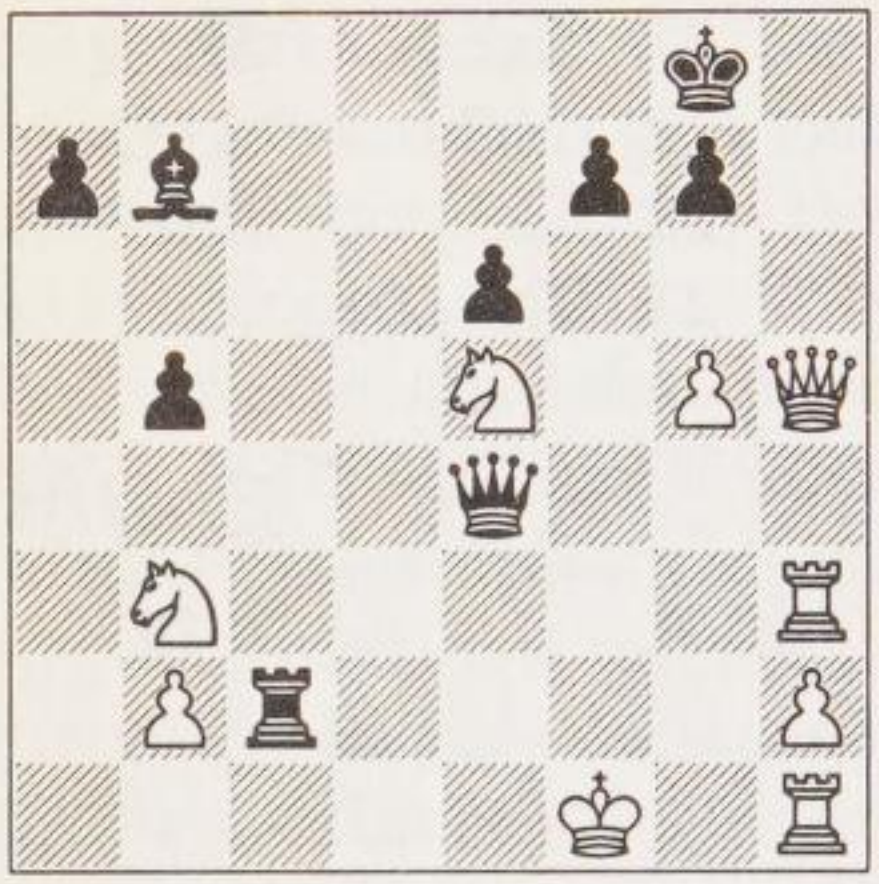
Anand now has the deadly threat of mate on h7 or h8, so Ivanchuk must act swiftly. The tension was heightened by the fact that both players were now down to their last couple of minutes to complete the game.

24	**...**	**♖xc2+!!**
25	**♔xc2**	**♖c8+**
26	**♔d1?**	

This allows a forced mate. After 26 ♖c3 ♗e4+ 27 ♘d3 ♖xc3+ 28 ♔xc3 ♗xc3 Black would have the better of a sharp position.

26	**...**	**♕b1+**

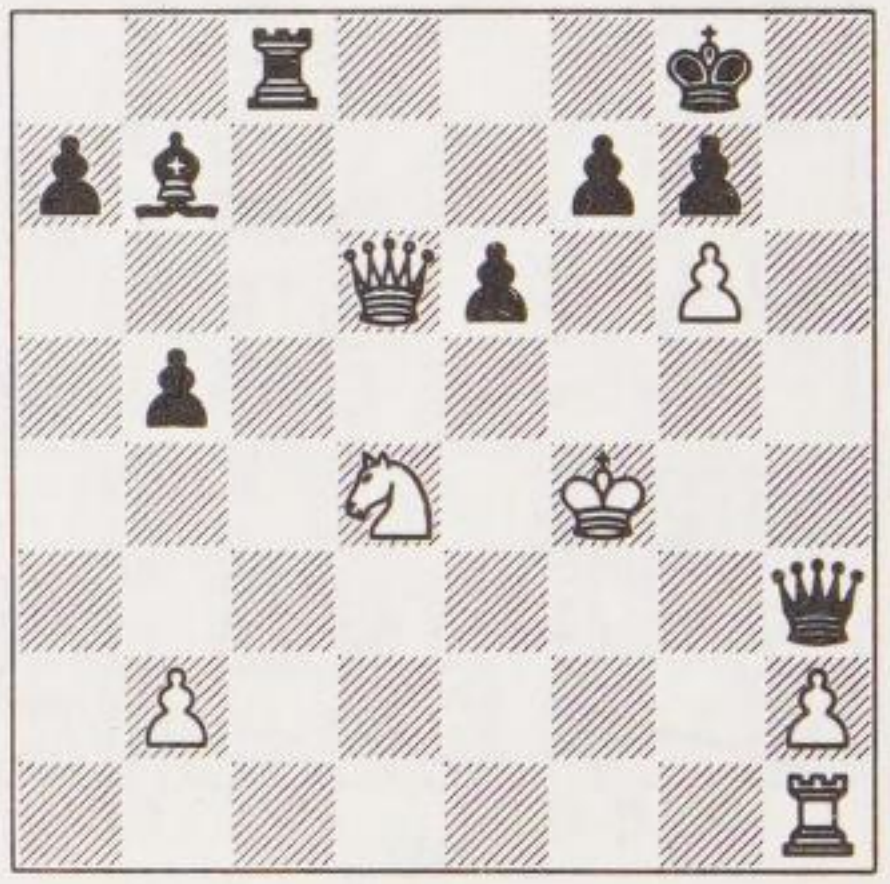
27	**♔e2**	**♕e4+**
28	**♔xf2**	**♖c2+**
29	**♔f1** *(D)*	



B

Here I witnessed one of the most incredible scenes that I have ever seen at a chess tournament. With first prize at stake and fully 50 seconds in which to find it, Ivanchuk, one of the world's top players, missed mate in one with 29...♕xh1 mate. After thinking for a few seconds everyone assumed that he was simply enjoying his moment of glory, but after a further 30 seconds it was clear that something was wrong. The commentary team were reduced to whispers for fear that Ivanchuk might overhear them, but there increasing mutterings from the audience who could not hide their disbelief. However, Ivanchuk remained oblivious to it all and with about 15 seconds left banged out his next move, only to lose on time just a few moves later.

29	**...**	**♕f4+??**
30	**♘f3**	**♔f8**
31	**g6**	**♕c4+**
32	**♔g1**	**♕xb3**
33	**♕e5**	**♖c1+**
34	**♔f2**	**♕c2+**
35	**♔e3**	**♕b3+**
36	**♔e2**	**♕c4+**
37	**♔f2**	**♕c2+**
38	**♔e3**	**♕b3+**
39	**♔f4**	**♖c4+**
40	**♘d4**	**♕xh3**
41	**♕b8+**	**♖c8**
42	**♕d6+**	**♔g8** *(D)*



W

Black **lost on time (1-0)**.

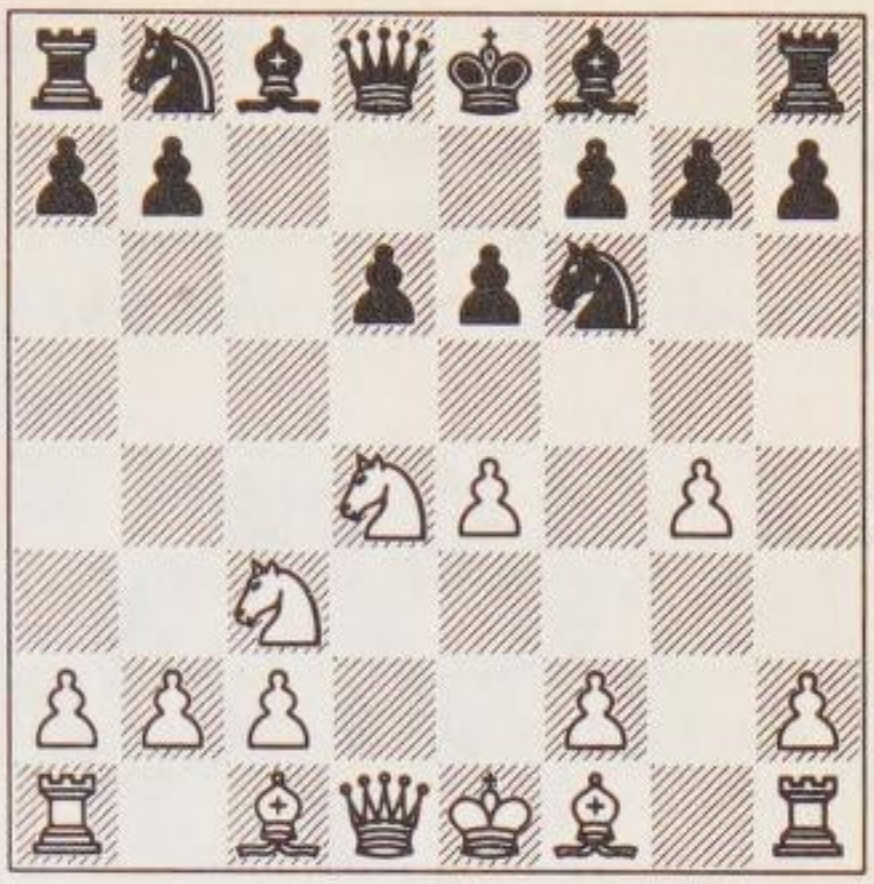
However, there was some poetic justice when Ivanchuk won the blitz play-off to take the title, and could afford to laugh about the game afterwards.

At the Closing Ceremony Vasily Ivanchuk did himself and all other professional chess players a great disservice. Despite declaring that he was 'very happy' as he received a $30,000 cheque, he made an appeal that computers should be banned from all future tournaments. I mean, does he think that Intel are pumping millions of dollars into chess just to see Gazza, Kramnik and Chukky play blitz with each other? If chess players want their sport to be taken seriously, they need to grow up.

Another flash event is the Melody Amber Blitz/Blindfold Event held in Monte Carlo. With huge appearance fees, for what is essentially a bit of fun, this is the event that everyone wants to be invited to. Normally it helps to see the board but perhaps being blindfolded against Judit is the only way to avoid distraction...

Anand-J.Polgar
Monaco Amber blindfold 1994
Sicilian, Keres Attack

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**e6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
5	**♘c3**	**d6**
6	**g4** *(D)*	



B

Whereas most players when playing a blindfold game would opt for a quiet line with relatively few opportunities to make oversights, Anand and his young opponent head straight for the complexities.

6	**...**	**h6**
7	**h4**	**♘c6**
8	**♖g1**	**♘d7**
9	**g5**	**hxg5**
10	**♗xg5**	

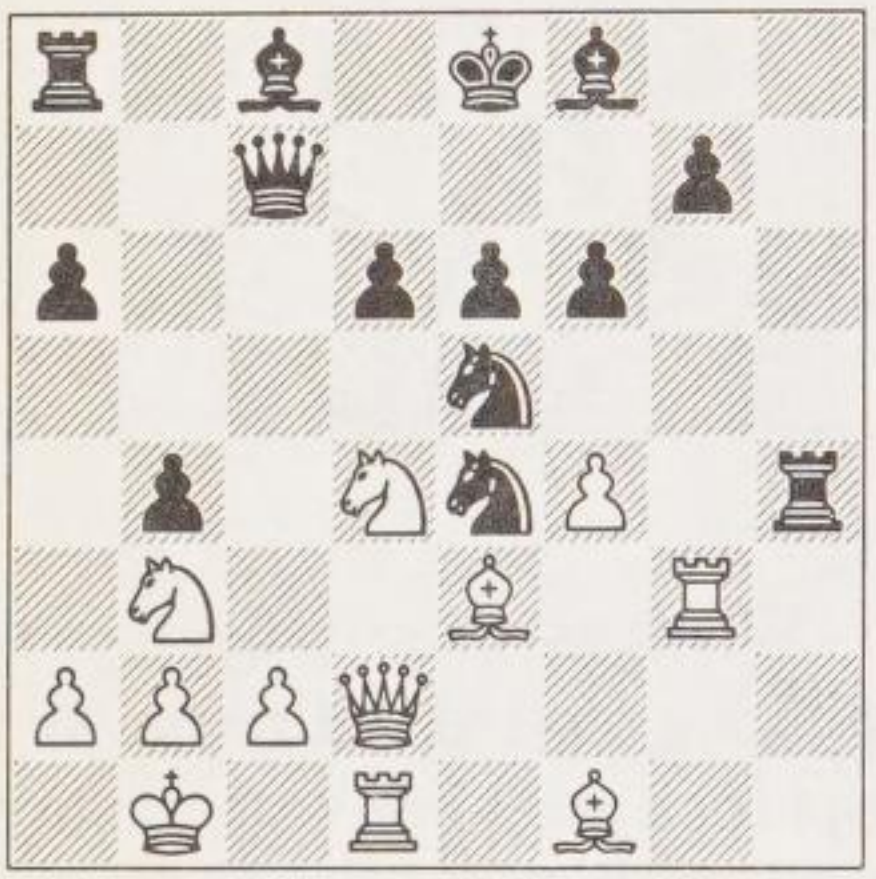
The alternative is 10 hxg5, but Anand is aiming for quick development.

10	**...**	**♕b6**
11	**♘b3**	**a6**
12	**♕d2**	**♕c7**
13	**0-0-0**	**b5**
14	**♔b1**	**♘ce5**
15	**♖g3**	**b4**
16	**♘e2**	**f6**
17	**♗e3**	**♖xh4**

If 17...♘xc4 then Anand could grab the b-pawn with 18 ♕xb4,

answering 18...d5 with 19 ♕c3 pinning the knight on c4.

18 ♘ed4 ♘c5
19 f4 ♘xe4 *(D)*



W

I would have trouble trying to assess this position in a normal game with two hours each, let alone a half hour blindfold game!

20 ♕g2 ♘xg3
21 ♕xg3 ♖g4
22 ♕h3 f5
23 fxe5 dxe5
24 ♘f3 ♗e7? *(D)*

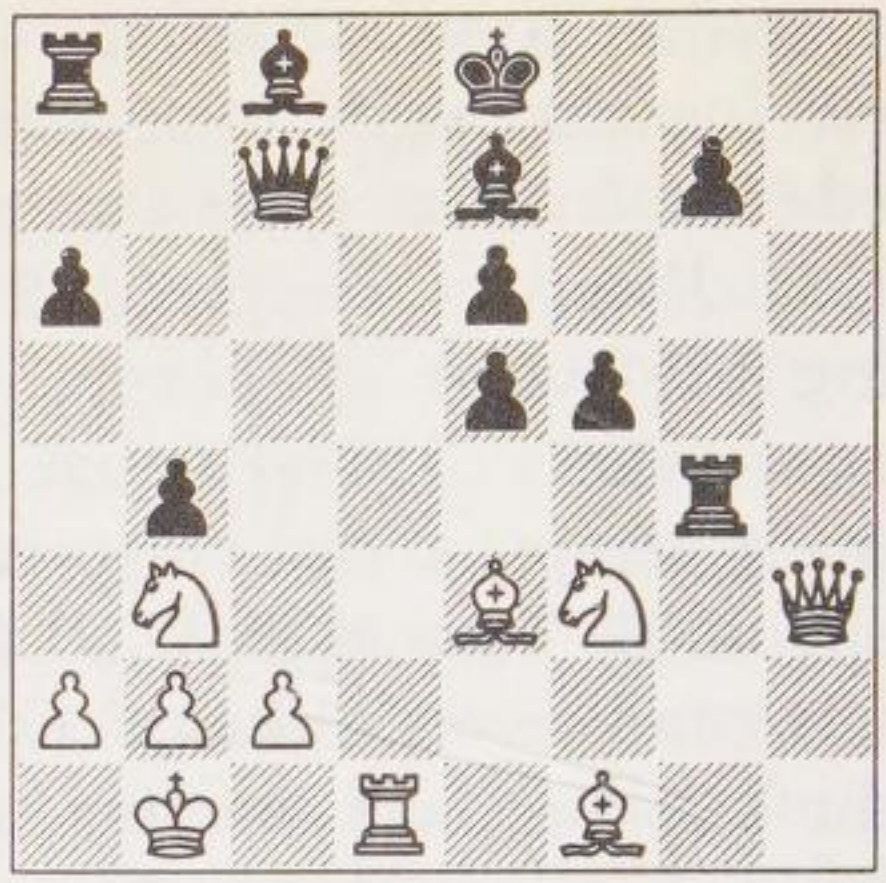
Here Judit should have tried 24...e4 since the pawn soon becomes a target on e5.

25 ♕h5+ ♔f8

25...g6 26 ♕h8+ followed by 27 ♘xe5.

26 ♗b6! ♕b8

The bishop is immune since 26...♕xb6 allows 27 ♘xe5 when the mate threats on f7 and h8 prove decisive, e.g. 27...♔g8 28



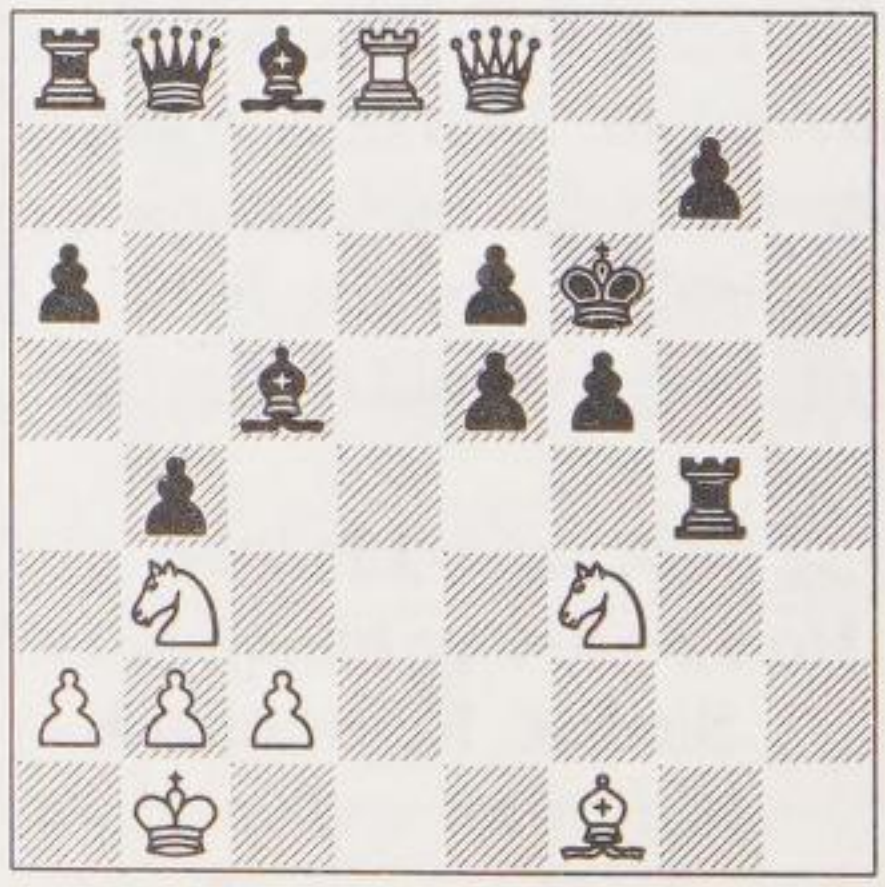
W

♘xg4 fxg4 29 ♗g2 with ♖h1 to follow.

27 ♗c5

Threatening instant mate by 28 ♖d8.

27 ... ♗xc5
28 ♖d8+ ♔e7
29 ♕e8+ ♔f6 *(D)*

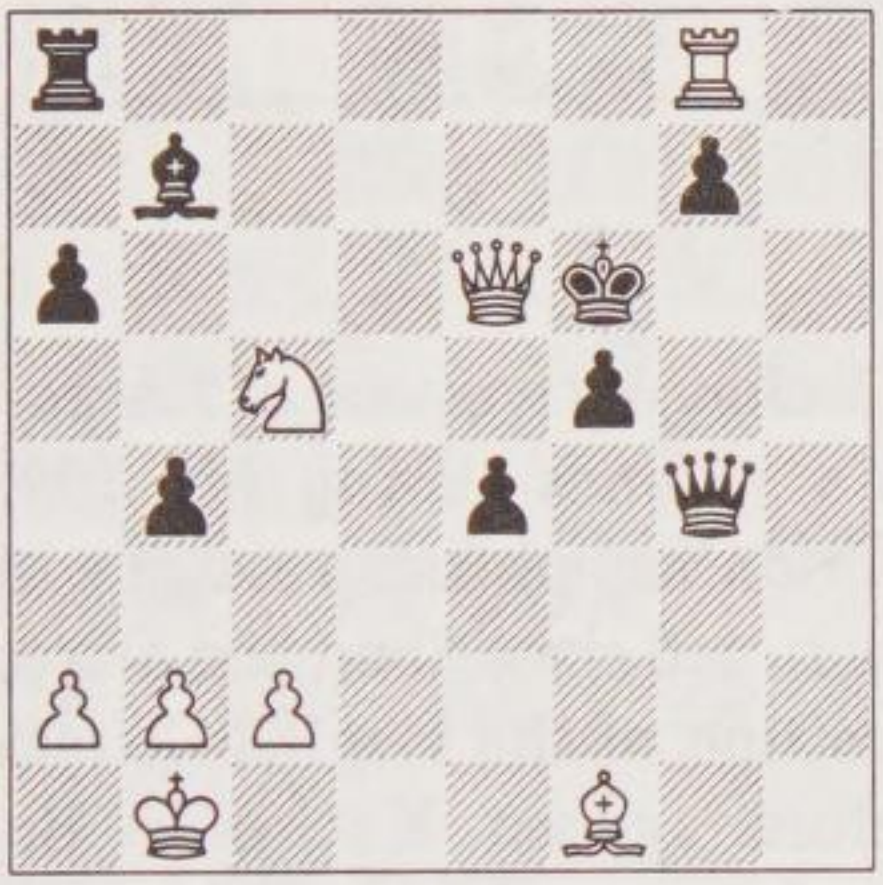


W

30 ♘xc5 ♕c7
31 ♕f8+ ♕f7
32 ♕d6 e4
33 ♕d4+ ♔e7

The king would like to hide on g6, but unfortunately this allows a family fork with 34 ♘e5+.

34	**♘e5**	**♕h5**
35	**♖g8**	**♗b7**
36	**♕d7+**	**♔f6**
37	**♘xg4+**	**♕xg4**
38	**♕xe6+** *(D)*	



B

38...♔g5 39 ♖xg7+ wins the queen, so **Polgar resigned (1-0)**.

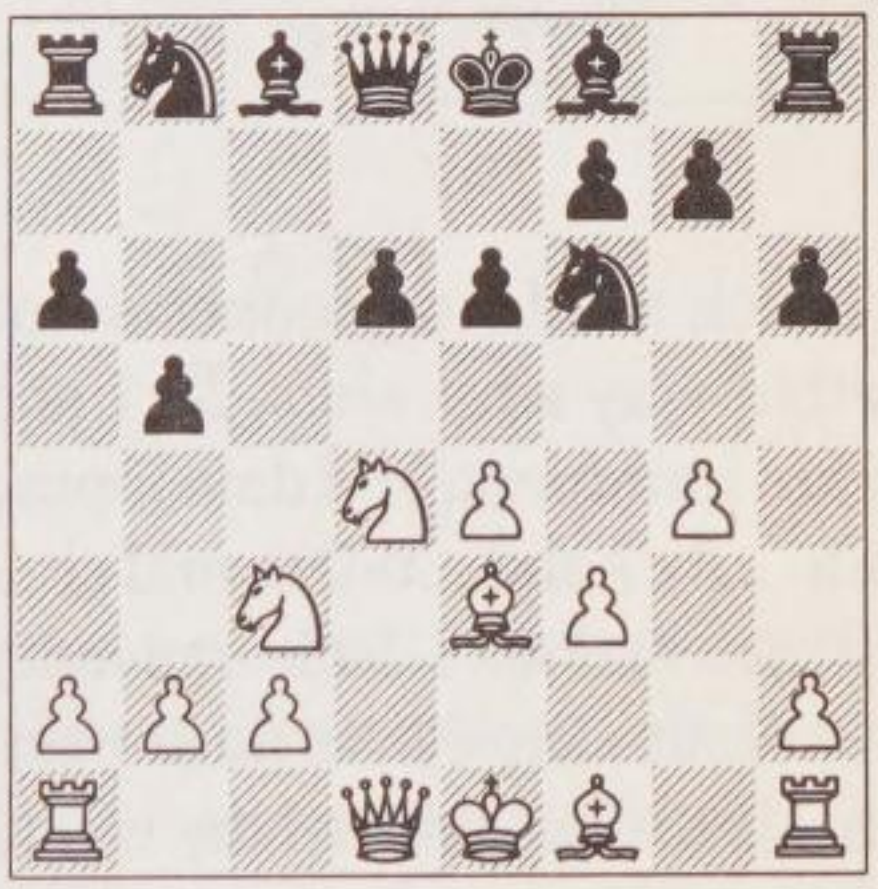
These tournaments were great fun for Anand, and kept him well away from the dole queue. But a young grandmaster cannot be strayed from his goal: the World Championship cycle. This is the only way to make a permanent name for yourself. In the summer of 1993 Anand had qualified for the Candidates stage of the FIDE World Championship, but it soon became clear that he had to get into the PCA one as well. He did this with little difficulty at the PCA mass-qualifier at the end of 1993. The following game was probably his best win from that event...

Anand-Beliavsky

PCA Qualifier, Groningen 1993

Sicilian, English Attack

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**d6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
5	**♘c3**	**a6**
6	**♗e3**	**e6**
7	**f3**	**b5**
8	**g4**	**h6** *(D)*

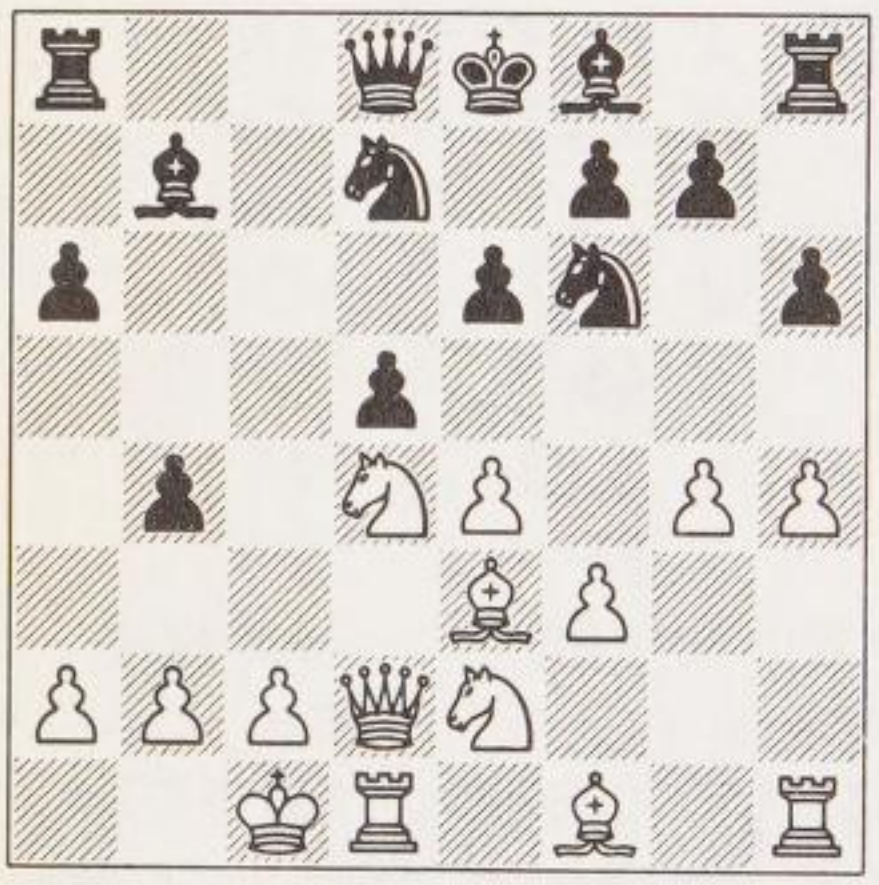


W

This move is normally played since it delays g5. After 9 h4 White would need to spend another move on ♖g1 before g5 due to the pin on the h-file. Therefore he prefers to remove his king

from the centre before beginning his attack. However, although it gains time, ...h6 also weakens Black's kingside.

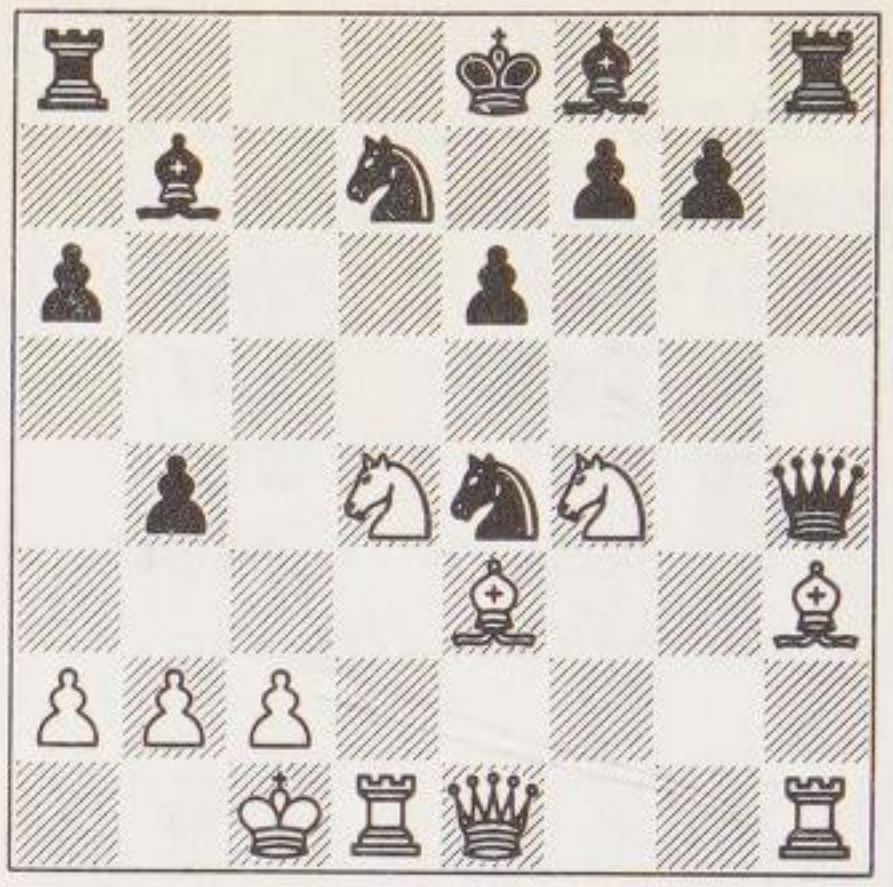
9	**♕d2**	**♘bd7**
10	**0-0-0**	**♗b7**
11	**h4**	**b4**
12	**♘ce2**	**d5** *(D)*



W

Black needs to produce some counterplay soon since ♖g1 and g5 are imminent, and developing with ...♗e7 and ...0-0 would simply get mated. Black can only ever castle kingside in these positions if he has omitted the weakening ...h6.

13	**♗h3**	**dxe4**
14	**g5**	**hxg5**
15	**hxg5**	**exf3**
16	**♘f4**	**♘e4**
17	**♕e1**	**f2**
18	**♗xf2**	**♕xg5**
19	**♗e3**	**♕h4** *(D)*



W

Beliavsky was one of Kasparov's seconds during his 1993 World Championship match with Short, and since Short had played this line of the English Attack before against Kasparov, Beliavsky must have analysed it deeply. Indeed, this position may still have been part of his preparation! Anand now finds himself two pawns down with a queen exchange threatened. Preserving the queens with 20 ♕e2 allows 20...♘g3, so he decides to sacrifice. The rest of the game is pure tactics.

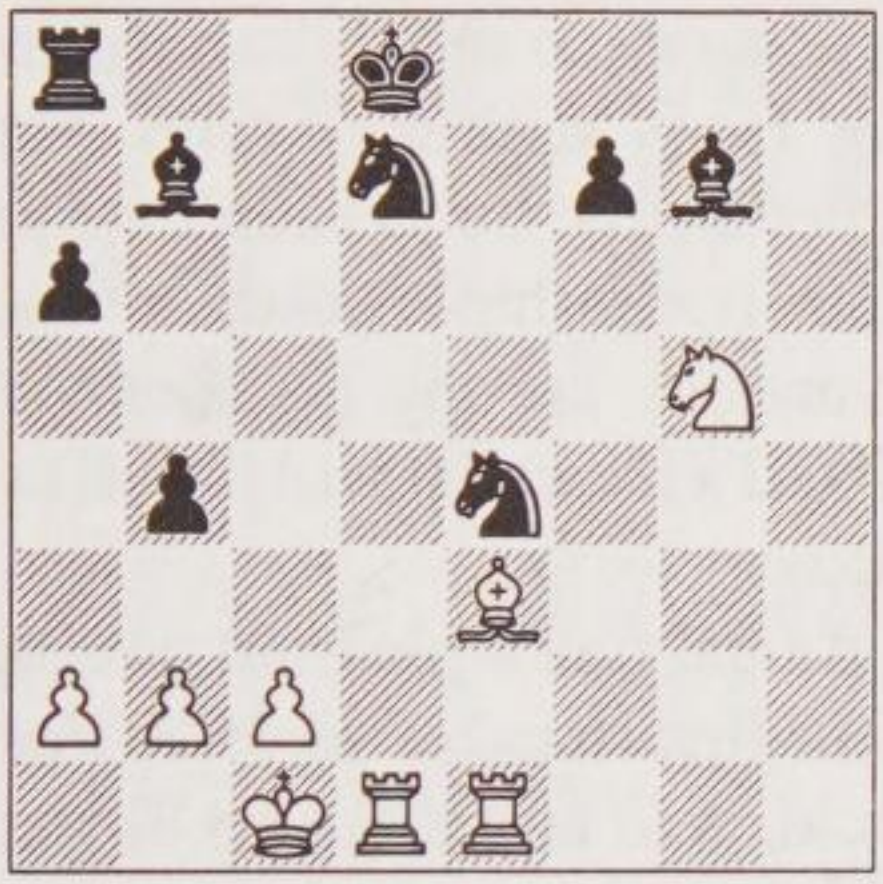
20	**♘dxe6!**	**♕xe1**

If 20...fxe6 then 21 ♗xe6 ♕xh1 22 ♗xd7 ♔f7 (22...♔d8 23 ♗b6+ and 22...♔e7 23 ♕xb4+ are both winning for White) 23 ♕e2 ♕xd1 24 ♕xd1 when White has the advantage due to Black's exposed king.

21 ♘xg7+ ♔d8!
22 ♖hxe1

There is no mate for White after 22 ♗b6+ ♔e7 23 ♘f5+ ♔f6 24 ♗d4+ ♔g5 25 ♖dxe1 ♖xh3 26 ♘xh3 ♔xf5.

22 ... ♖xh3
23 ♘xh3 ♗xg7
24 ♘g5 *(D)*

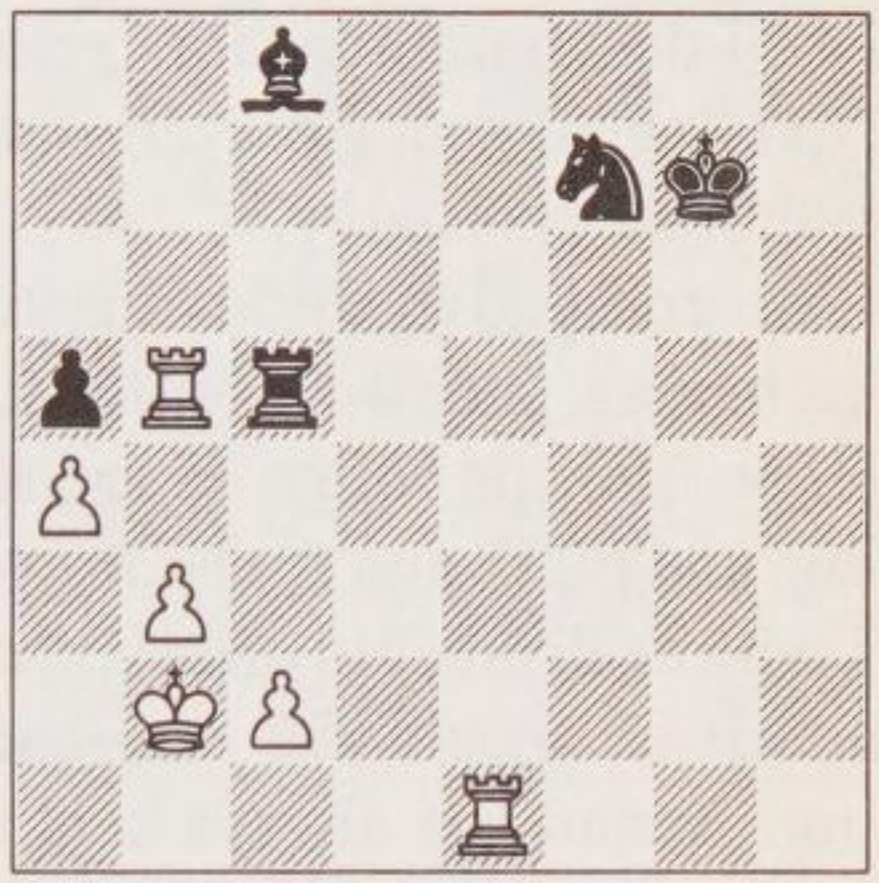


B

24 ... ♔e8?

Black is ahead on material, but in trying to protect his pawn on f7 his king gets stranded in the middle of the board. After 24...♔c8 25 ♘xf7 White would have been only slightly better.

25 ♘xf7! ♘e5
26 ♘d6+ ♘xd6
27 ♖xd6 ♔f8
28 ♗h6! ♗xh6+
29 ♖xh6 ♘f7
30 ♖b6 ♗d5
31 ♖xb4 ♖c8
32 ♖b6 a5
33 a4 ♗c6
34 b3 ♗d7
35 ♔b2 ♖c5
36 ♖b8+ ♔g7
37 ♖b7 ♗c8
38 ♖b5 *(D)*



B

After the exchange of rooks White will simply march his b- and c- pawns up the board, so **Black resigned**.

9 The Road to the Crown ... both of them

For some the schism in the chess world was a tragedy. The title had been debased, chess might go the way of boxing, with multiple titles and no legitimacy. Others feared a Kasparov tyranny, with the PCA being his puppet organisation through which he could control the championship cycle. Most talented young players saw one thing: opportunity.

Two competing cycles meant two chances, and two lots of loot. Competition is often a good thing, and FIDE and the PCA vying with each other to offer better conditions would be no bad thing. Anand has always kept a very pragmatic head when it comes to the FIDE/PCA dispute. If the PCA can bring in new sponsors and organise events, then why keep criticising? He can even be Machiavellian: 'If you don't like them and still like the tournaments, then you play...'

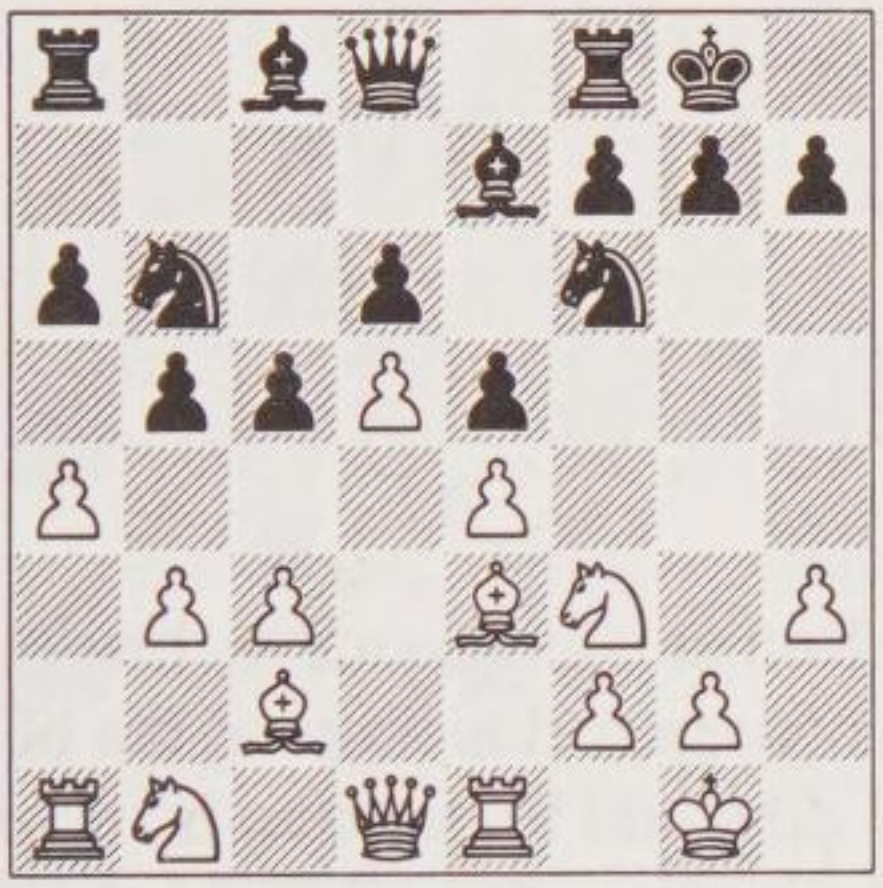
In the first round of the FIDE cycle, Anand faced the Candidate veteran Artur Yusupov. Yusupov is an amiable fellow and Anand recounts that they still enjoyed having dinner just before the match. He is also a great fighter, and with his trainer Mark Dvoretsky they make a fearsome team. But he was no match for the Meteor from Madras. Anand won rather easily, but it didn't affect their friendship. Yusupov and Dvoretsky are the backbone of Anand's team that will face Kasparov.

Anand had a pleasant pairing in the first round of the PCA/Intel cycle, held at the Trump Tower. Although an extremely inventive and talented player, Romanishin was probably the weakest of the possible opponents and it would be fatuous to claim that the result was ever in doubt.

Anand-Romanishin
New York PCA Ct (2) 1994
Spanish, Chigorin

1	**e4**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**♗b5**	**a6**
4	**♗a4**	**♘f6**
5	**0-0**	**♗e7**
6	**♖e1**	**b5**

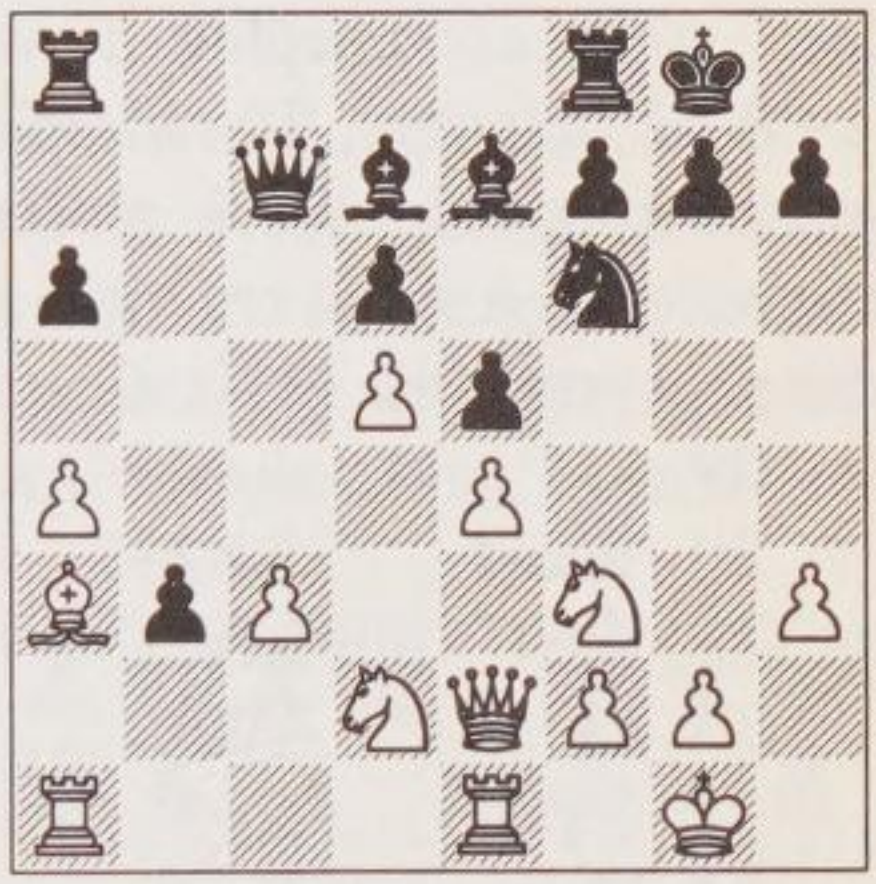
7	**♗b3**	**d6**	Attempting to achieve some
8	**c3**	**0-0**	counterplay down the c-file after
9	**h3**	**♘a5**	the exchange on b3, but Anand's
10	**♗c2**	**c5**	accurate play refutes Roman-
11	**d4**	**♗b7**	ishin's whole concept. Better was
12	**d5**	**♘c4**	20...♘h5!? 21 ♘xe5 ♘f4 22 ♕d1
13	**b3**	**♘b6**	♗xh3 23 g3!.
14	**a4**	**♗c8**	
15	**♗e3** *(D)*		



B

21	**♗xb3**	**cxb3**	
22	**♘bd2**	**♗d7** *(D)*	

Now Black realises that after 22...♕xc3 23 ♘c4! his queen is trapped.



W

15 ... bxa4!

This natural move, freeing the c4-square for the knight, was actually a theoretical novelty. Previously 15...♕c7 had been played.

16	**bxa4**	**♘c4**
17	**♗c1**	**♘a5**
18	**♕d3**	**c4**

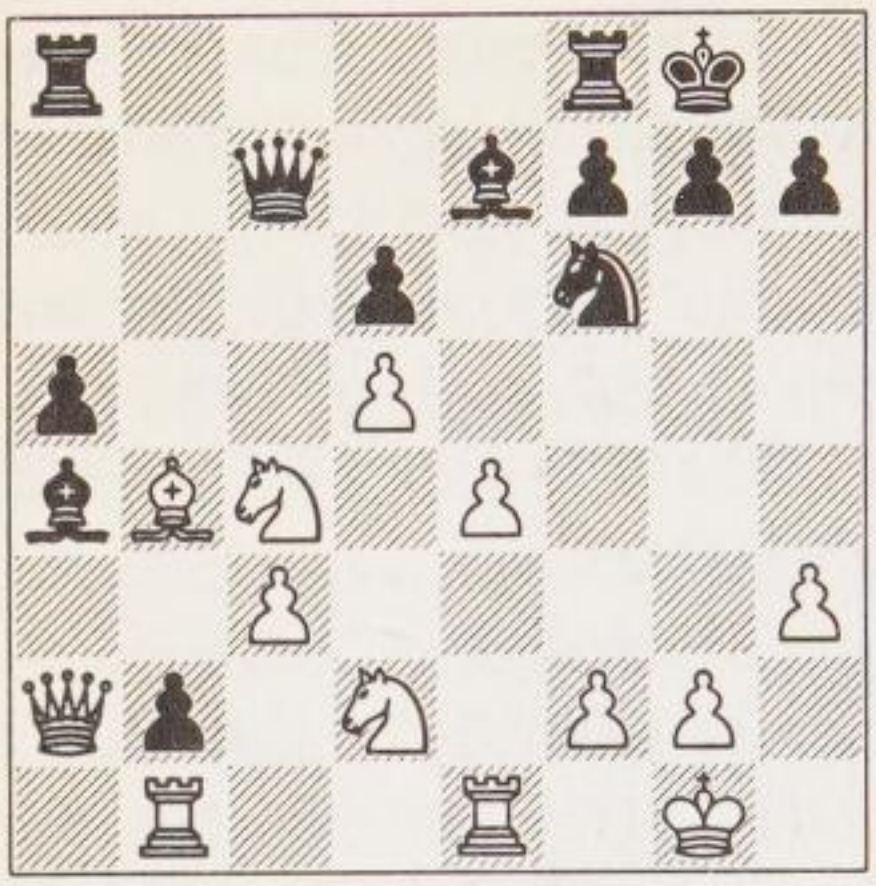
Black should have continued his development with 18...♕c7 since the move played opens up the a3-f8 diagonal for Anand's bishop.

19	**♕e2**	**♕c7**
20	**♗a3!**	**♘b3?**

23	**♘xe5!**	**b2!**
24	**♖ab1**	**♗xa4**
25	**♕c4!**	

Material is equal but the black b-pawn is doomed, so Anand attempts to swap queens to reach a winning endgame.

25	**...**	**♕a5**
26	**♗b4**	**♕b6**
27	**♕a2**	**a5!**
28	**♘ec4**	**♕c7** *(D)*
29	**♗xd6**	



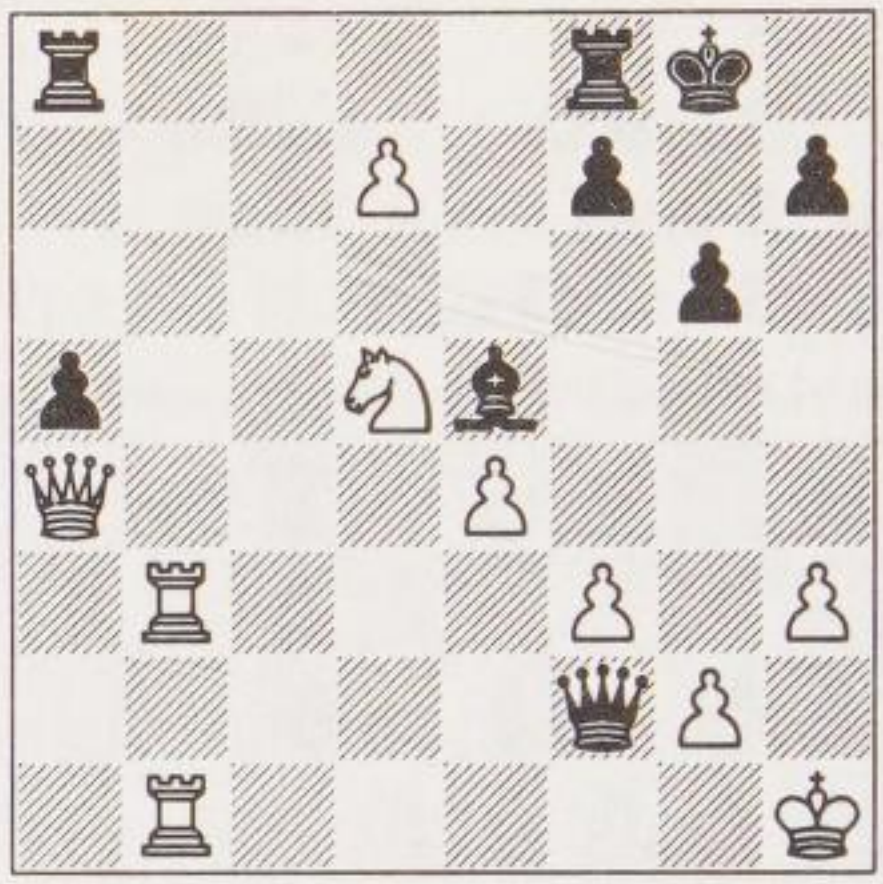
W

Grabbing the d-pawn gives Black some counterplay down the b8-h2 diagonal. The simple 29 ♗a3 keeps the black pieces passive and Anand emerges a clear pawn up after 30 ♖xb2.

29	**...**	**♗xd6**
30	**♕xa4**	**♗h2+!**
31	**♔h1**	**♖fe8!**
32	**f3**	**♘h5**
33	**♘f1**	**♗g3**
34	**♖e2**	**♖ec8**
35	**♘ce3**	**♕xc3**
36	**♘f5**	**♕e5**
37	**♖exb2!**	

Despite his earlier slight inaccuracy Anand has defended well and now begins to mobilise his extra central pawns.

37	**...**	**♗f4**
38	**♖b7**	**♗g5**
39	**d6**	**g6**
40	**d7**	**♖f8**
41	**♘d4**	**♘g3+**
42	**♘xg3**	**♕xg3**
43	**♘e2**	**♕f2**
44	**♘c3**	**♗f4**
45	**♘d5**	**♗e5**
46	**♖7b3!** *(D)*	



B

Romanishin wants to line up his queen and bishop on the b8-h2 diagonal to threaten mate on h2, but here 46...♕g3?? loses a piece to 47 f4!. Crucially, Black's counterplay is hampered by the d7-pawn stopping his rooks joining the attack via the c-file.

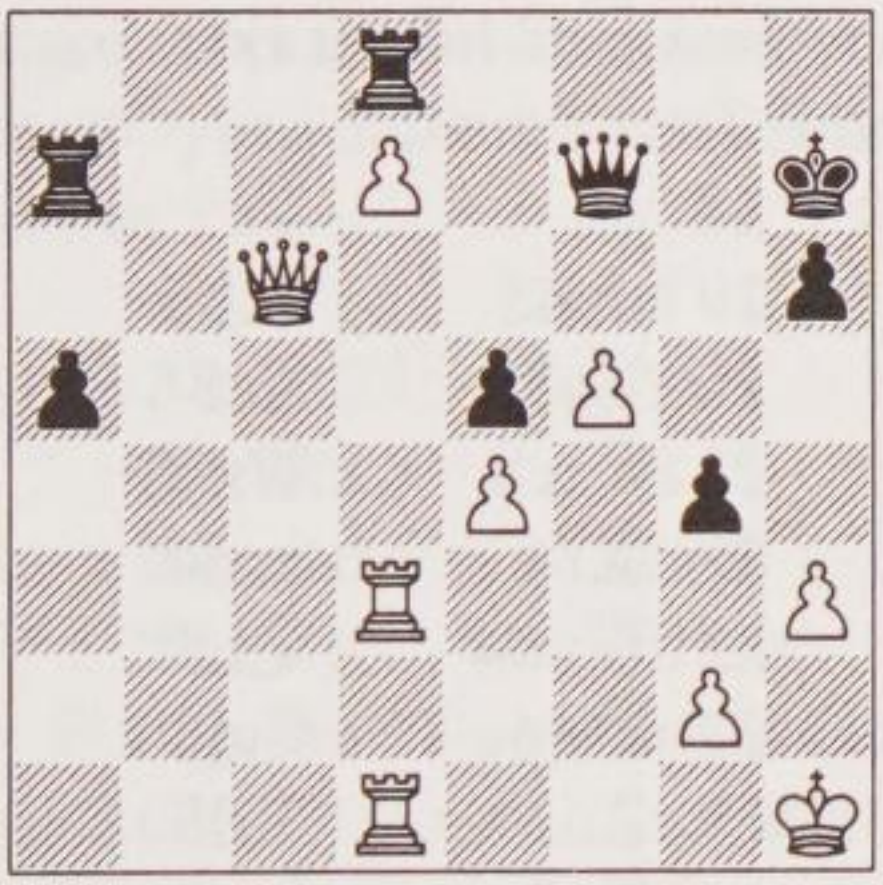
46	**...**	**♕h4**
47	**♖f1**	**♖a7**
48	**f4**	**♗g7**
49	**♖fb1**	**♖aa8**
50	**♔h2**	**g5**
51	**♖g3!**	**h6**
52	**♖f1**	**♔h8**
53	**♖g4**	**♕h5**
54	**f5**	**♗e5**
55	**♔h1**	**f6**

55...♖ad8 allows 56 f6! ♕g6 57 ♖f5 boxing in Black's queen.

56 ♘e7! ♕f7
57 ♘g6+ ♔h7
58 ♘xe5 fxe5
59 ♖g3

Anand is now easily winning the major-piece endgame due to his massively strong passed pawn on d7.

59 ... ♖fd8
60 ♖d1 ♖a7
61 ♖gd3 g4
62 ♕c6! *(D)*



B

The h6-pawn now becomes a target after either 62...a4 63 ♖d6 ♕g7 64 ♖g6 ♕f8 65 ♖dd6 or 62...gxh3 63 ♖xh3 ♕g7 64 ♖d6. Unable to cope with this weakness as well as the dangerous passed pawn on d7, **Romanishin resigned**.

Poor old Oleg. He decided that if he was going down, it might as well be with a bang...

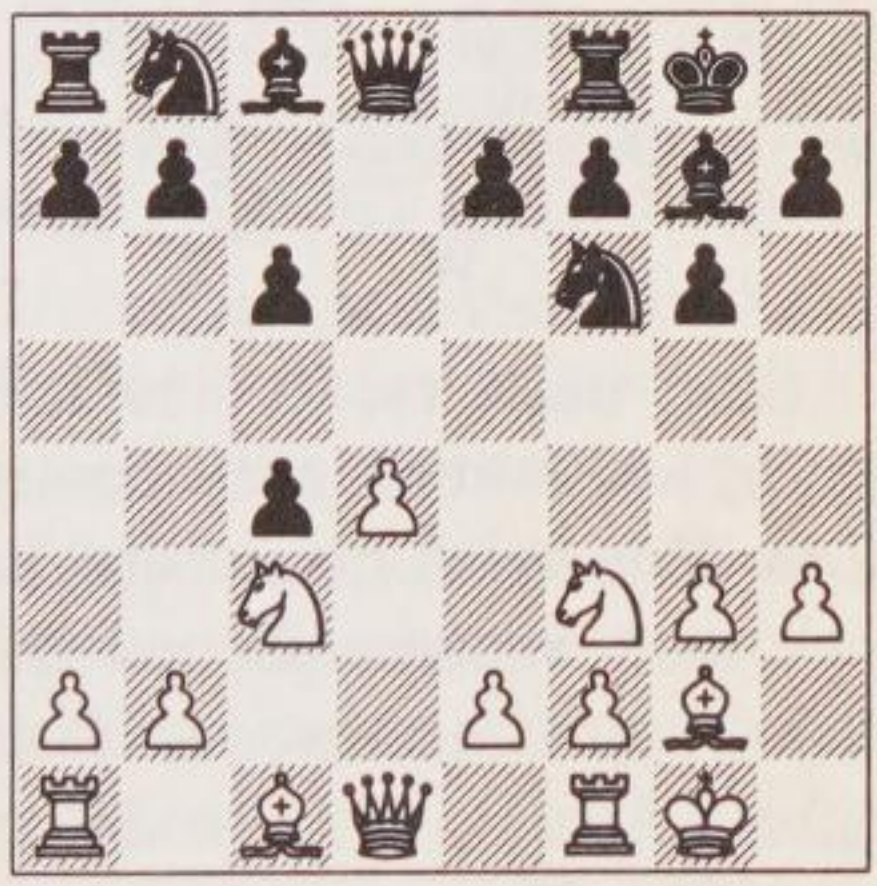
Romanishin-Anand
New York PCA Ct (3) 1994
Neo-Grünfeld

1 d4 ♘f6
2 ♘f3 g6
3 c4 ♗g7
4 g3 d5

Anand plays his favourite Grünfeld Defence rather than the King's Indian after 4...d6.

5 ♗g2 dxc4
6 0-0 c6
7 ♘c3 0-0
8 h3 *(D)*

This is a new move, but seems slightly irrelevant given the subsequent play on the queenside. Previously 8 e4 had been played.



B

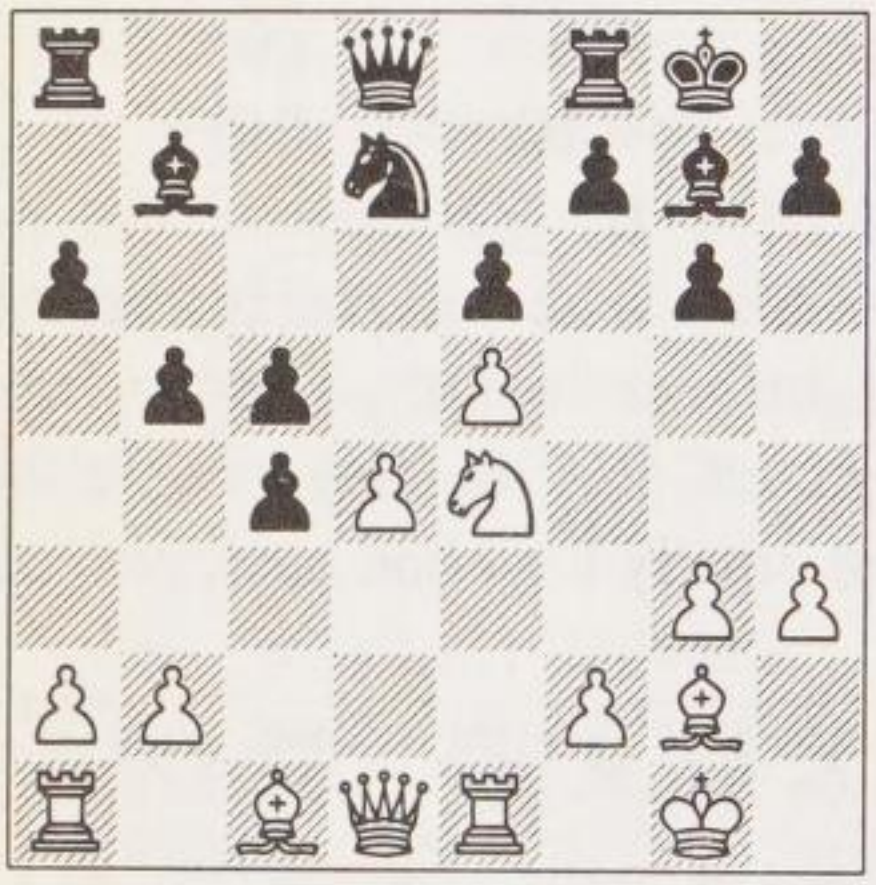
8 ... b5!

Anand decides to hang on to his extra pawn.

9 ♘e5 a6
10 e4

Another drawback of Romanishin's 8th move is seen after 10 ♘xc6 ♘xc6 11 ♗xc6 when Black can simply capture the h-pawn and emerge with an extra pawn: 11...♗xh3.

10	**...**	**♗b7**
11	**♖e1**	**♘bd7**
12	**♘xd7**	**♘xd7**
13	**e5**	**e6**
14	**♘e4**	**c5!** *(D)*



W

Anand must create counterplay by undermining the centre before Romanishin exploits the weak dark squares around the black king with moves such as ♗g5 and ♘f6+.

15 ♘f6+

After 15 ♘xc5? ♗xg2 16 ♔xg2 ♘xc5 17 dxc5 ♖c8 White's pawns on e5 and c5 are very weak.

15 ... ♗xf6

A fascinating position arises after 15...♘xf6 16 exf6 ♗xf6 17 ♗xb7 ♖a7 18 ♗e4 cxd4 when Anand has three strong central pawns for the bishop. However, the variation chosen aims to preserve Anand's extra pawn.

16 ♗xb7 ♖a7

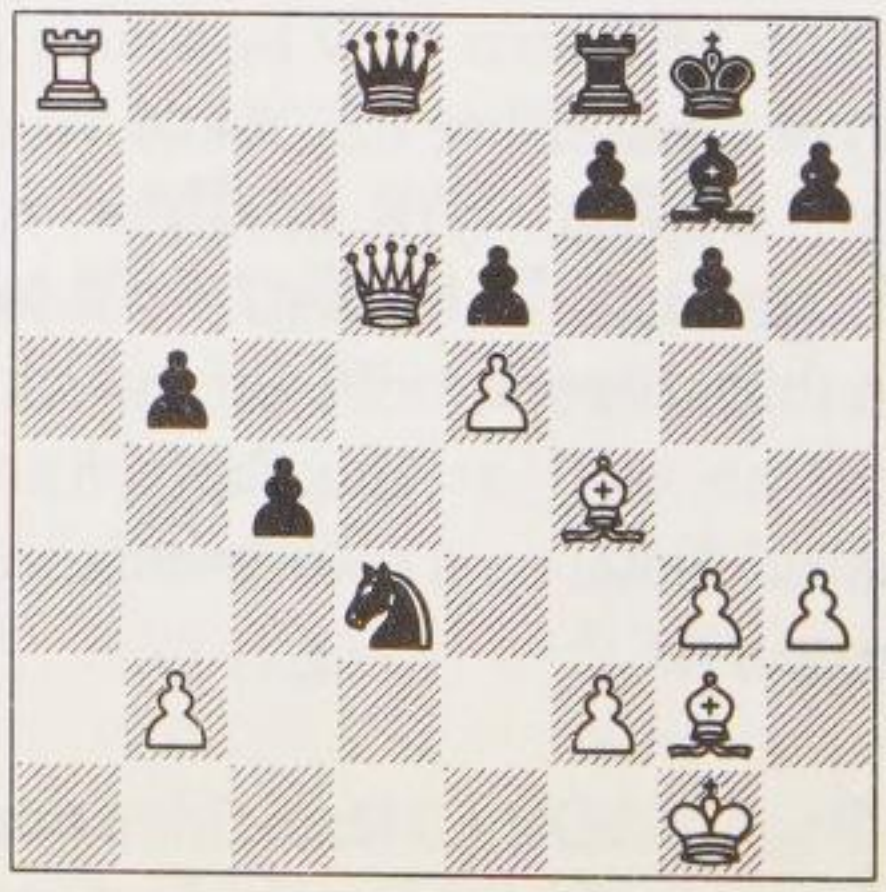
17 ♗g2?

17 exf6 ♖xb7 18 ♗g5! is a better chance, playing against the dark squares weakened by the exchange of Anand's dark-squared bishop.

17 ... ♗g7

Now Anand has an extra pawn and is clearly better.

18	**a4**	**♖c7**
19	**axb5**	**axb5**
20	**♖a8**	**♖c8**
21	**♖xc8**	**♕xc8**
22	**♗f4**	**cxd4**
23	**♕xd4**	**♘c5**
24	**♕d6**	**♘d3**
25	**♖a1**	**♕d8**
26	**♖a8** *(D)*	



B

Provoking a mass exchange of pieces. Romanishin tries to find salvation in an opposite-coloured bishop ending, but Anand's pawns are simply too strong.

26	**...**	**♕xd6**
27	**exd6**	**♘xf4**
28	**gxf4**	**♖xa8**
29	**♗xa8**	**♔f8!**

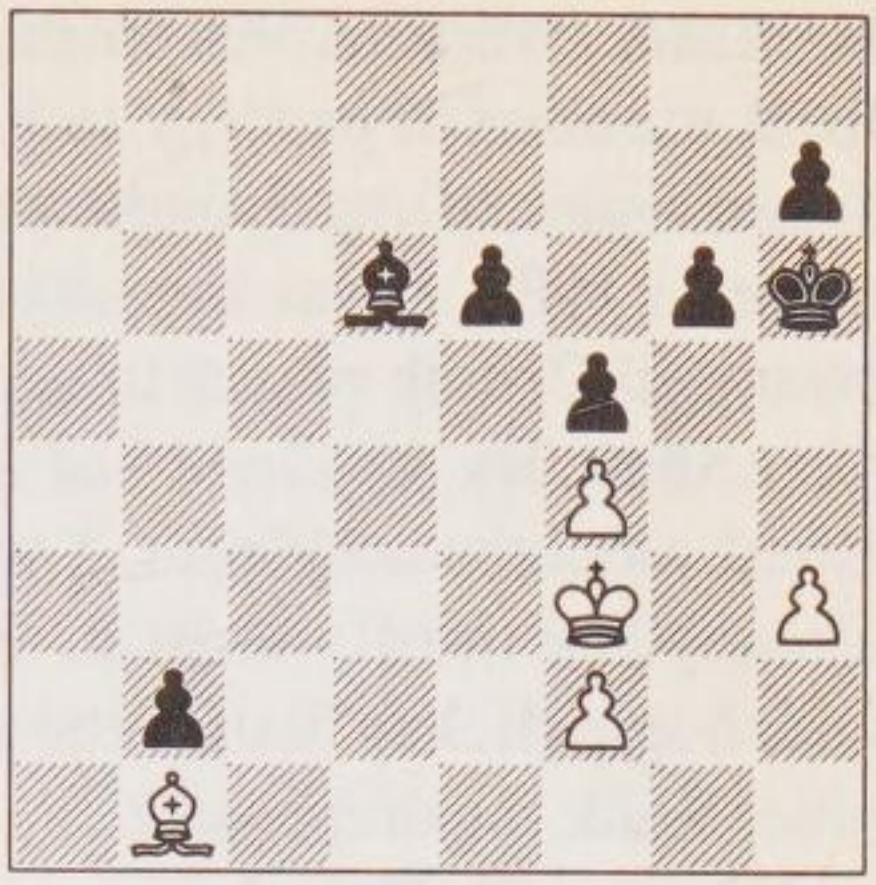
29...♗xb2 30 ♗c6 b4 31 ♗b5 ♔f8 32 ♗xc4 ♗c1 33 f5 gxf5 34 ♗b3 followed by 35 ♗a4 and 36 d7 would give White good drawing chances due to his passed d-pawn tying down one of Black's pieces.

30	**♗c6**	**b4**
31	**♗b5**	**c3!**
32	**bxc3**	**b3**
33	**♗d3**	**♗xc3**
34	**♔g2**	**f5!**

Fixing the f4-pawn on a dark square where it will be permanently weak.

35	**♔f3**	**♗b4**
36	**♗c4**	**b2**
37	**♗a2**	**♗xd6**
38	**♔e3**	**♔g7**
39	**♗b1**	**♔h6**
40	**♔f3** *(D)*	

Anand is now effectively playing a king and pawn endgame on the kingside, but with an extra bishop, since White's bishop is tied down to the b-pawn. After 40...♔h5 41 ♔g3 g5 wins the f-pawn, so **Romanishin resigned**.



B

Winning this match took Vishy to the next stage of the PCA cycle, which was scheduled for Linares, that chess-loving Spanish town. The semi-final matches in Linares were as follows:

Anand-Adams
Kamsky-Short

Before his match with Adams, Anand had to face Kamsky in the FIDE cycle, but we will deal with this encounter in the next chapter. Suffice is to say that Anand was now in only one World Championship cycle; so he could not afford any slip-ups.

Anand-Adams was the first match where I did not want the young Indian to win. This was not through a sense of patriotism. I've known Mickey since he was a little fellow in short trousers. He would sit at the board, gazing at anything other than the chess pieces and occasionally picking

his nose. I've seen his progress from promise to prodigy to pro. When I gained my grandmaster norm in 1988, I was the second youngest British player to do so after Short. By the time I had finished a celebratory pint, I was already the third youngest. But under-age Mickey bought me another drink to compensate.

Adams and Anand are opposites. Anand freely admits that he is no party animal, and 'I simply do not drink.' Adams is a *bon viveur* and many times he has appeared for a crucial game after a heavy session the night before. Anand is not judgmental about the behaviour of rival players: 'This is not to say that what works for me is specifically good for everyone. For some people maybe partying out every night is the best.' I think Vishy is taking his diplomacy too far. Although there are many tales of brilliant games won on hangovers, this cannot be a sensible long-term strategy. In my opinion Anand's self-control, reinforced by cultural influences, gives him a very sober edge over rivals.

Mickey has the constitution to play a game after a heavy night in the bar; his raw talent usually carries him through. The main problem is that if you are out on the town, you can't be at home with your ChessBase. If you get caught out by a powerful opening novelty, it will take more than talent and a few aspirins to save you. I believe that some time before the Anand match, Mickey had already started to accept this.

English grandmaster Dr. John Nunn had been Adams's second for his close but ultimately unsuccessful match with Gelfand. When Adams replaced Nunn in favour of Julian Hodgson there was much shaking of heads. Julian is a strong grandmaster who specialises in winning open tournaments but he is no encyclopedia of opening theory. What is more, at the bar Hodgson can match Mickey bourbon for bourbon. It didn't seem like the most serious choice of second.

However, the two grandmasters are close friends. They live a stone's throw from each other in West London, so Mickey at least would feel relaxed. As it happened, they seemed to be working well together. Mickey Adams defeated Sergei Tiviakov in New York and his openings showed a marked improvement. Could the playful pair be a match for Anand? Some observers, including myself, predicted they would be.

A sign of how serious Mickey was taking the match is the fact that the farewell party was held several days before he left, giving ample time to recover. Mickey's girlfriend, Tara, had selected a Mexican restaurant in the heart of Soho – rather appropriate as it was Mexican Independence day. Beer and fajitas were followed by tequila slammers. We drank a toast to an Adams victory. Who was Anand anyway? Another few shots and we were dancing to La Bamba on the table. I now wonder what Anand was doing at that moment.

Anand-Adams
Linares PCA Ct (1) 1994
Alekhine

1 e4 ♘f6

This move came as a complete surprise to everyone watching, Anand included, since Adams had never previously played Alekhine's Defence at this level.

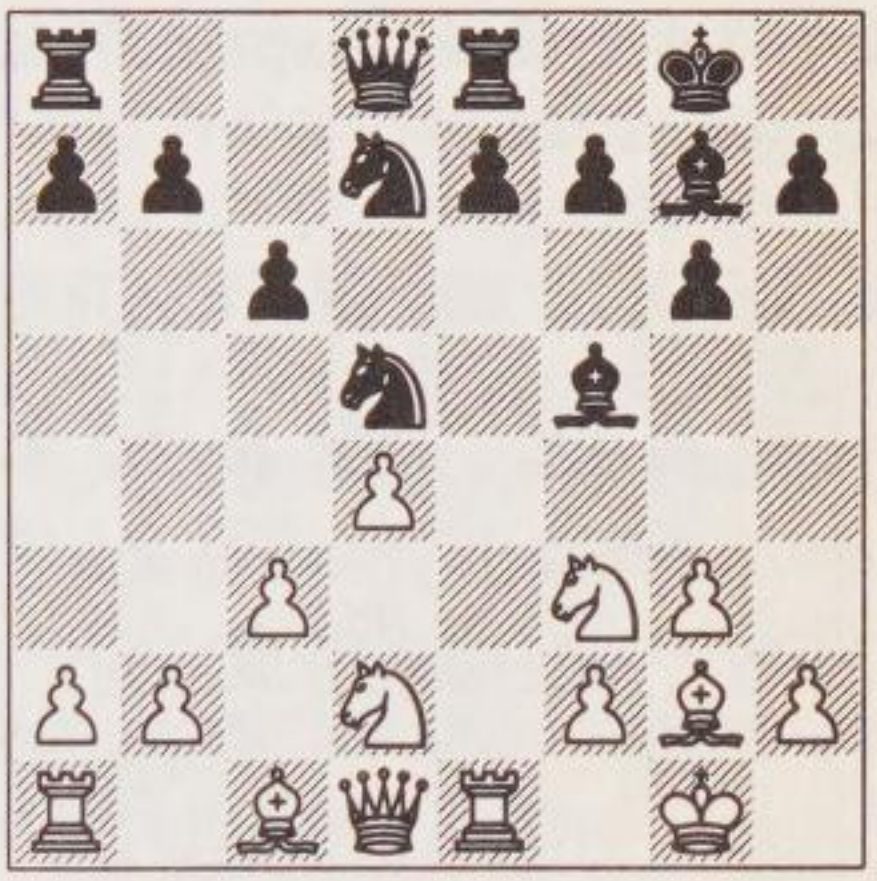
2 e5 ♘d5
3 d4 d6
4 ♘f3 dxe5
5 ♘xe5 g6

Black avoids the extremely complicated positions that arise after the piece sacrifice 5...♘d7 6 ♘xf7.

6 g3

Taken by surprise, Anand decides to avoid the main line 6 ♗c4 and plays the more cautious 6 g3.

6 ... ♗g7
7 ♗g2 0-0
8 0-0 c6
9 ♖e1 ♗f5
10 c3 ♘d7
11 ♘f3 ♖e8
12 ♘bd2 *(D)*



B

12 ... ♘7f6?

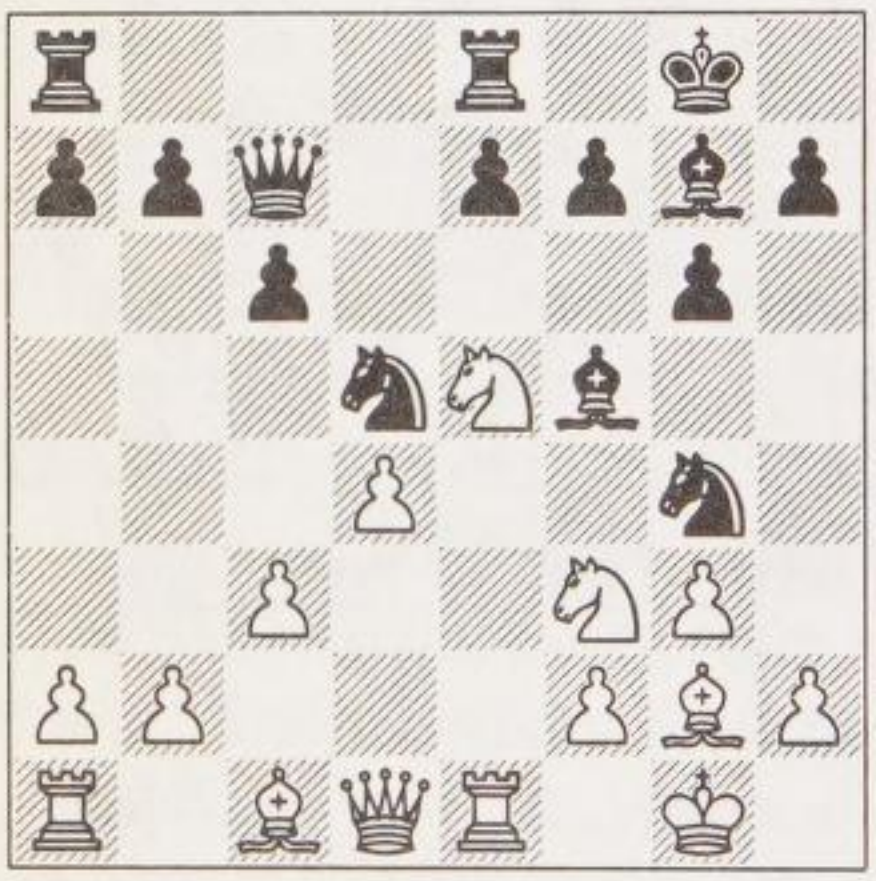
The idea of Black's 10...♘d7 and 11...♖e8 was to play 12...e5, but Adams gets his plans mixed up, leaving 11...♖e8 a complete waste of time. After the continuation 12...e5! 13 ♘c4 ♗g4! 14 dxe5 ♘xe5 15 ♘cxe5 ♗xe5 'Black has no problems' – declared the colourful Yugoslavian grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojević, and I have to agree; with equal material and a symmetrical

pawn formation a draw would seem inevitable.

13 ♘c4 ♕c7

14 ♘ce5 ♘g4 *(D)*

This turns out badly for Black, but it is difficult to suggest alternatives. For example 14...♘d7 allows 15 ♘xf7! ♔xf7 16 g4 e6 (both 16...be6 and 16...♗xg4 allow 17 ♘g5+ winning back the piece) 17 gxf5 exf5 when Anand is clearly better due to his two bishops and the exposed black king.



W

15 ♘h4!

Adams later admitted that he had completely missed this. Now Anand gains the bishop pair and weakens the black kingside by doubling Adams's f-pawns.

15 ... ♘xe5

16 ♘xf5 gxf5

17 dxe5 e6

18 ♕e2 ♘e7

19 f4 ♘d5?

20 c4 ♘e7

21 ♗e3

Anand is now clearly better, with the two bishops and a large space advantage.

21 ... ♖ad8

22 b4 ♖d7

23 ♕f2 ♘c8

24 a4?!

'Anand has not understood the position' commented Ljubojević. Anand should first swap a pair of rooks with ♖ed1 and only then play on the kingside, since after Adams doubles on the d-file, he manages to create some counterplay.

24 ... ♖ed8

25 a5 f6!

26 exf6 ♗xf6

27 ♖ab1 ♗c3

28 ♖f1 ♖d3

29 ♔h1 ♗d4!

30 ♗xd4 ♖3xd4?

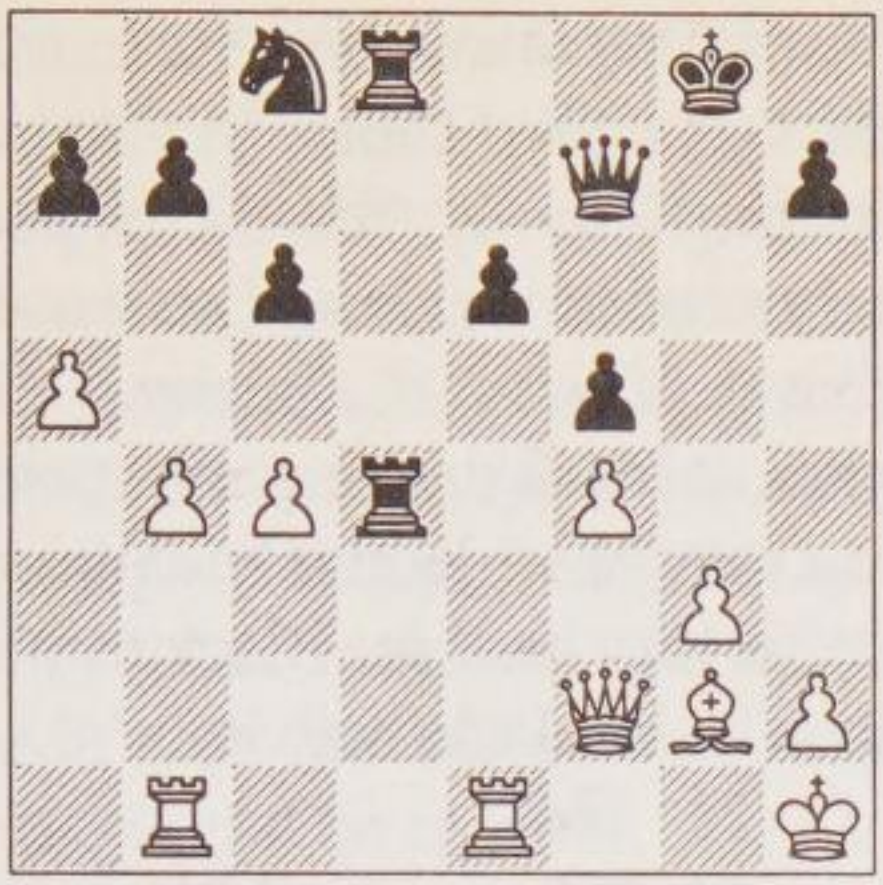
Better is 30...♖8xd4 31 ♕e2 ♕d7 32 c5 (preventing ...♘d6-e4), when Adams's second Julian Hodgson thought that Black should hold the endgame.

31 ♖fe1

In fact Anand should play ♗d5 directly, as 31 ♖fe1 gives his opponent a chance to avoid the trap.

31 ... ♕f7 *(D)*

Adams had to try 31...♖xc4 32 ♖xe6 ♕d7, with drawing chances.

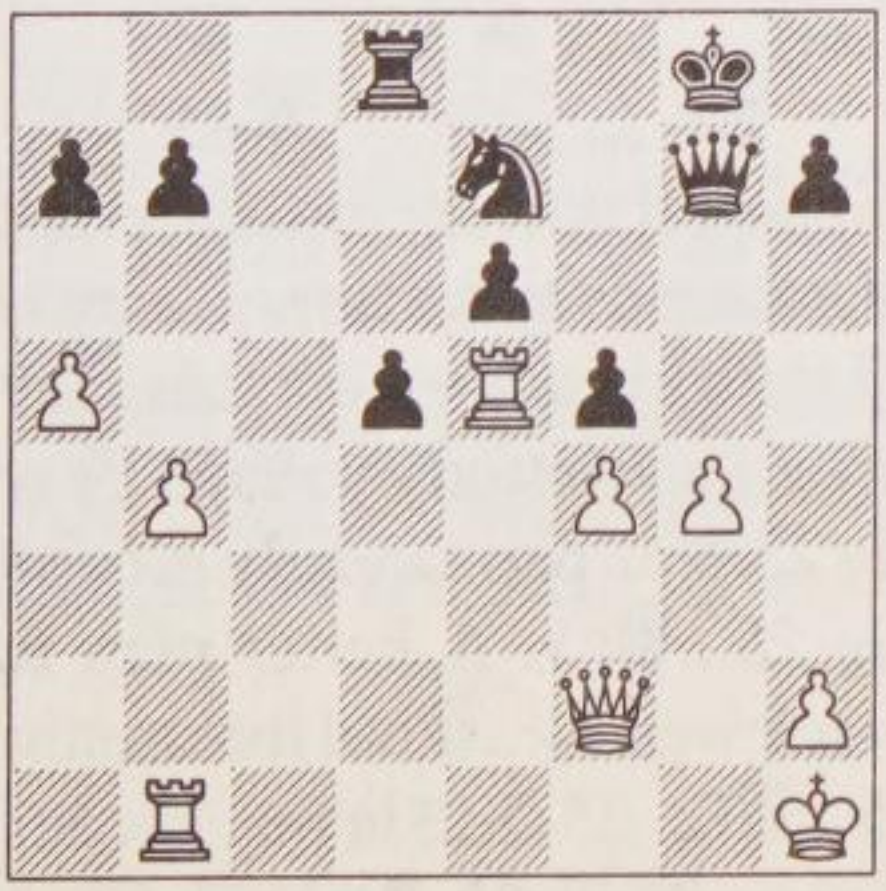


W

32 ♗d5!

Again, Adams simply missed this move, which wins the exchange, giving Anand a winning position. The bishop disrupts the co-ordination of the black rooks so that capturing it with either pawn allows ♕xd4.

32	**...**	**♕g7**
33	**♖e5!**	**♖4xd5**
34	**cxd5**	**cxd5**
35	**g4**	**♘e7** *(D)*



W

36	**♖xe6**	**fxg4**
37	**♕h4**	**♖d7**
38	**♖be1**	**♔f8**
39	**f5**	

Anand threatens the crushing 40 f6, and 39...♘xf5 is answered by 40 ♖d8+ ♔f7 41 ♖8e7+ winning Black's queen, so **Adams resigned**.

When Adams lost the second game I received a phone call from the pair. 'Dave, what should we do? We've even been taking it seriously.' Their speech didn't sound like they were taking it that seriously. 'Do the opposite, have a party.' The advice did not seem to help. Mickey went 3-0 down; Adams is normally like a rock, I've never known anyone go through him so easily.

Anand-Adams

Linares PCA Ct (5) 1994

Caro-Kann

1	**e4**	**c6**

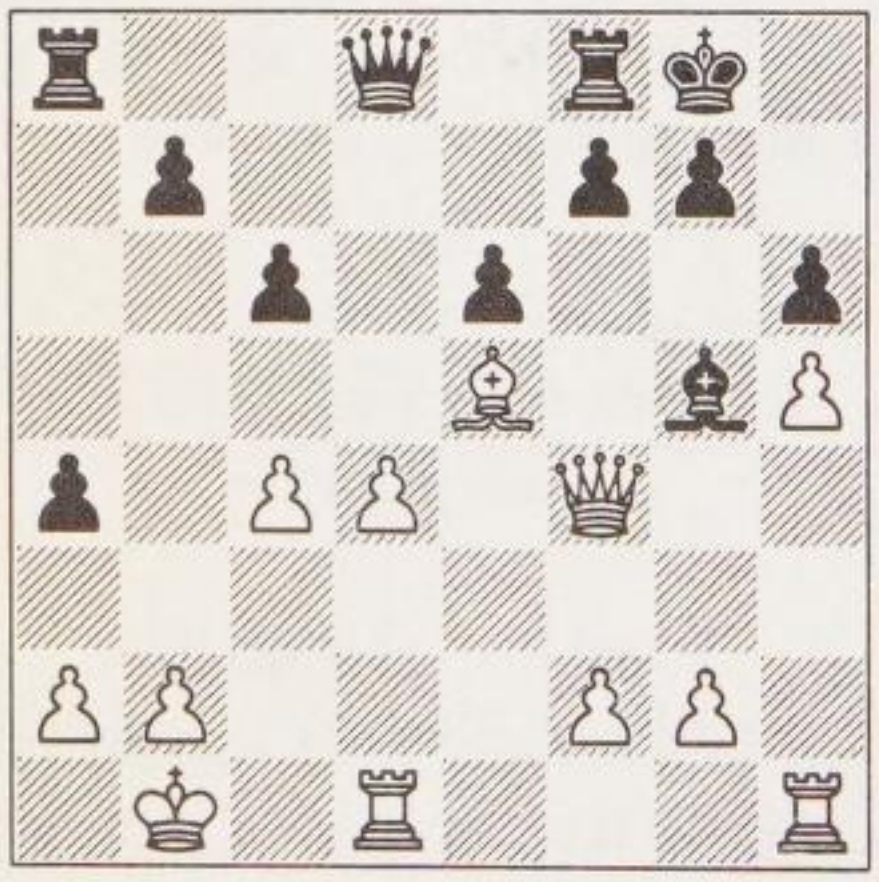
Anand had already won in the Alekhine and Spanish Opening, so here Adams reverts to his old favourite, which he thought would give him the best chances for equality.

2	**d4**	**d5**
3	**♘c3**	**dxe4**
4	**♘xe4**	**♗f5**

5	**♘g3**	**♗g6**
6	**♘f3**	**♘d7**
7	**h4**	**h6**
8	**h5**	**♗h7**
9	**♗d3**	**♗xd3**
10	**♕xd3**	**e6**
11	**♗f4**	**♗b4+!**

White aims to castle queenside so this move provokes the weakening c3.

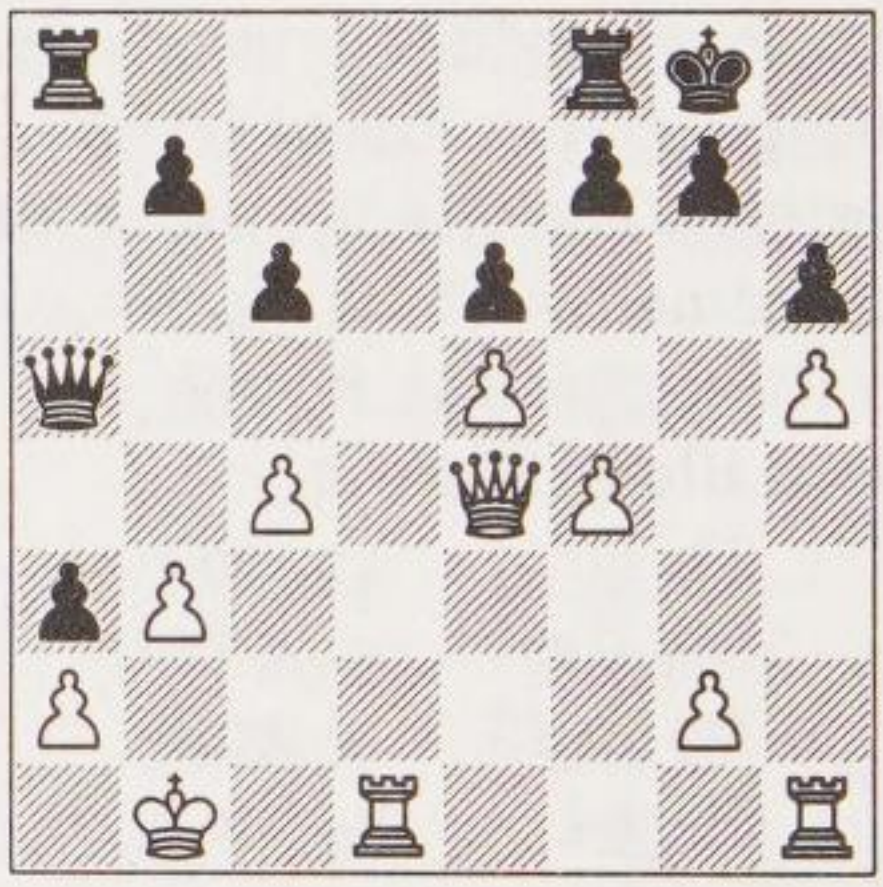
12	**c3**	**♗e7**
13	**0-0-0**	**♘gf6**
14	**♔b1**	**a5**
15	**♘e5**	**a4**
16	**c4**	**0-0**
17	**♘e4**	**♘xe4**
18	**♕xe4**	**♘xe5**
19	**♗xe5**	**♗f6**
20	**♕f4**	**♗g5** *(D)*



W

Hodgson later said that they had prepared up until this position a couple of weeks before the match and had decided that the position was completely equal. Psychologically, however, this line was a good choice by Anand. Trailing 3½-½, Adams desperately needed to win and so would have preferred a sharper variation. Although the game position may be objectively equal, it is also very hard for Black to win since he has little activity.

21	**♕e4**	**a3**
22	**b3**	**♗f6**
23	**f4**	**♗xe5**
24	**dxe5** *(D)*	



B

24 ... ♕a5

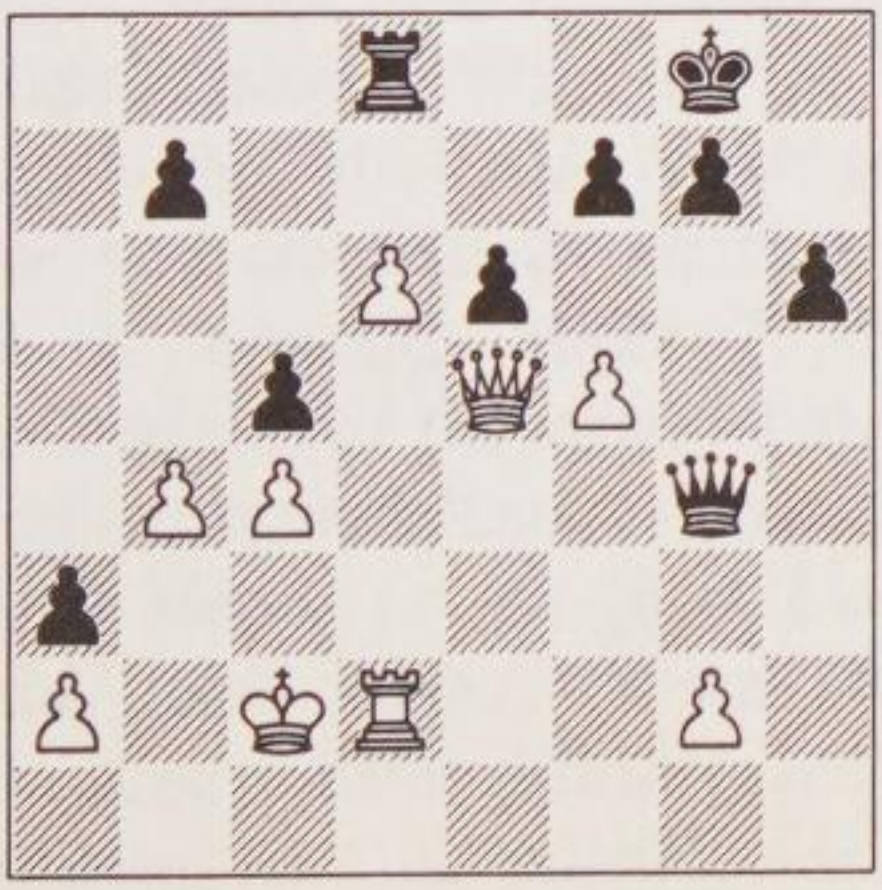
This effectively loses a tempo. Black needs to create some activity with his queen, but this move is well answered by Anand's reply 25 ♔c2 permanently preventing 25...♕c3. A better plan for Black was 24...♕b6! threatening 25...♕f2. 25 ♖d2 is bad because of 25...♖fd8 26 ♖hd1 ♖xd2 27 ♖xd2 ♕g1+ 28 ♔c2 ♕a1. Adams

thought afterwards that White's best reply was 25 ♕d4 but then 25...♕a5 26 ♕e3 is similar to the game except that White has not yet played ♔c2. Adams later said that he knew 24...♕a5 was risky, but that he had played it because of the match position, and that he hadn't realised how useful the king would be on c2.

25	**♔c2**	**♖ad8**
26	**♖d6!**	**♖xd6**
27	**exd6**	**♕c5**
28	**♖d1!**	

Anand sacrifices the h5-pawn in order to secure the d6-pawn.

28	**...**	**♕xh5**
29	**♖d2**	**♖d8**
30	**b4**	**c5**
31	**♕e5**	**♕g6+**
32	**f5**	**♕g4** *(D)*



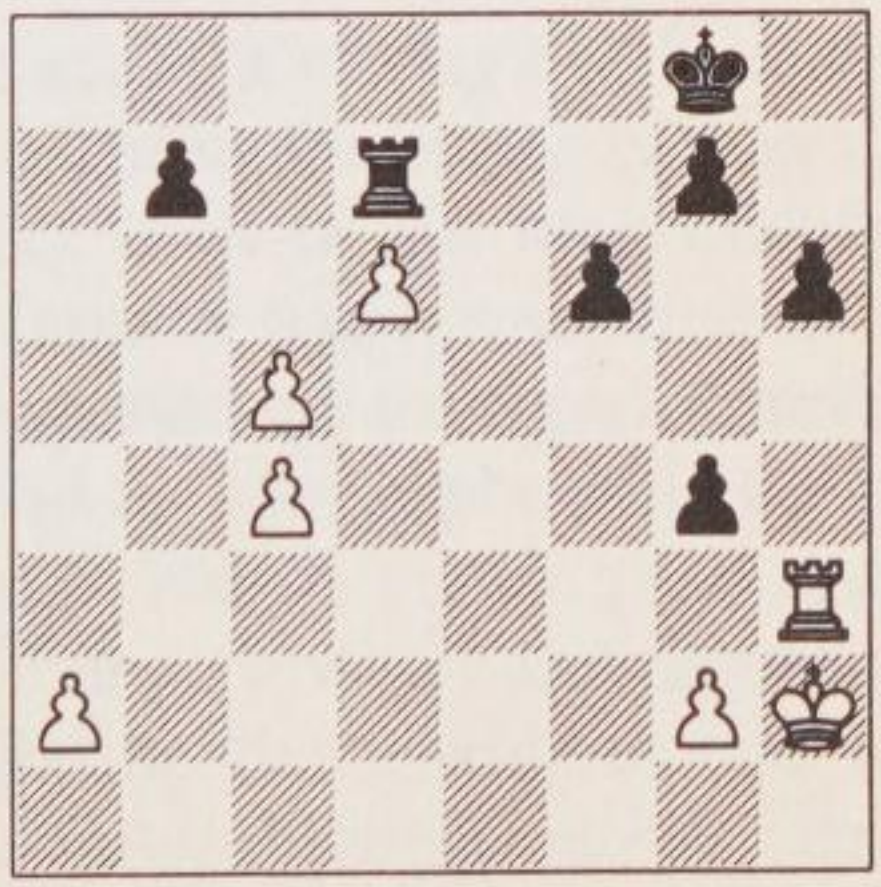
W

33 ♔b3!

The obvious 33 ♕xc5 is bad because of Black's reply 33...e5!

when the position is unclear. After 33 ♔b3 Anand only has to avoid the checks and his d6-pawn will win the game.

33	**...**	**♕g5**
34	**♖e2**	**♕c1**
35	**bxc5**	**♕b1+**
36	**♔c3**	**♕c1+**
37	**♔d3**	**♕d1+**
38	**♔e3**	**exf5**
39	**♔f2**	**♕c1**
40	**♕e7**	**♕f4+**
41	**♔g1**	**♕d4+**
42	**♔h2**	**♖d7!**
43	**♕e8+**	**♔h7**
44	**♕e5**	**♕h4+**
45	**♔g1**	**♕g5**
46	**♖e3**	**f6**
47	**♕g3**	**♕h5**
48	**♕f4**	**♔g8**
49	**♖xa3**	**♕d1+**
50	**♔h2**	**♕h5+**
51	**♖h3**	**♕g4**
52	**♕xg4**	**fxg4** *(D)*



W

53 ♖b3!

Black cannot prevent 54 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 55 c6 followed by c7 when one of the pawns will queen, **so Adams resigned**.

After this defeat I chatted to Mickey again; 'I'm having a birthday party on Saturday but you will still be playing your match.' 'Maybe the way it's going I could be back in time.' Mickey didn't quite make it on Saturday, but he was round the next morning, champagne in hand, to re-kindle the festivities. 'Who wants to be World Champion?'

10 Terminated

After his victory against Romanishin, I bumped into Anand in New York. Vishy was hanging around for the Intel Grand Prix but even the Speed King has his off-days. Having been knocked out in the early stages, he was relegated to the position of spectator. We shared a cab to the exhibition hall.

I had just finished annotating a game from the Kamsky-Kramnik Match. It had been a wild attacking game and I'd spent a long time analysing it. I'd even found a new idea, which I suggested to Anand. He quoted the obvious reply which fell right into my trap: 'Gotcha.' Vishy looked at me bemused: 'Dave, don't tell me you are actually starting to learn opening theory?' He looked out of the window, then replied nonchalantly; 'Anyway, your idea is not so good. I can play...blah...blah...' I was too shocked to listen. I'd spent hours looking at this position on a board; it took him seconds to refute it in his head.

As usual you couldn't get much out of Vishy. He emphasised the need to take everything one step at a time. Kamsky was a very dangerous opponent. 'But, Vishy, you have to win. They won't publish my book until 1996 if you don't.' Anand did not want to talk about chess. He was a young man in New York. We chatted about finance and economics – I'd just lost a lot of clients' money due to the collapse of the US and UK stockmarkets. We arrived at the playing hall. 'You're paying for the taxi. These days chess players are richer than bankers.' Anand smiled, and got out his wallet.

Even though he was giving nothing away, I knew that Anand was confident for his forthcoming match with Kamsky. Most experts also favoured Anand. Kamsky's victory over Kramnik had been something of a shock. For once in his life, Vladimir Kramnik had seemed like an inexperienced teenager. Kramnik had his own explanation for his loss. The no-smoking rule in the Trump Tower building meant that he kept having to take the elevator between moves. Only outside was he permitted to indulge his habit.

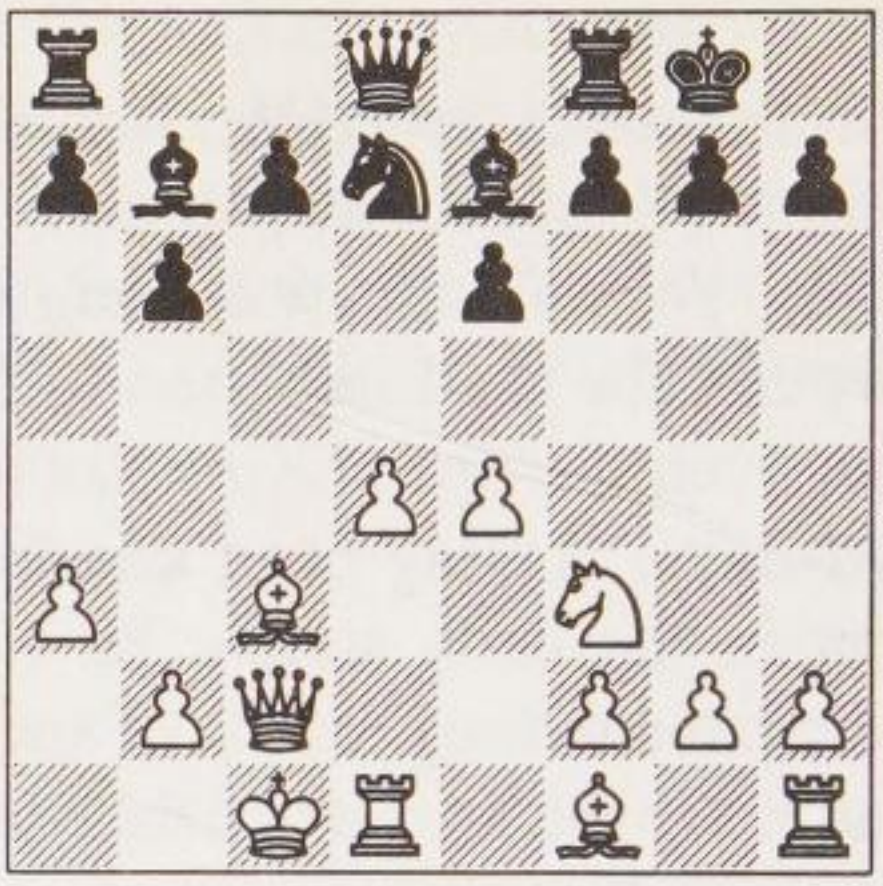
By this stage Gata Kamsky, and his father Rustam, had a fearsome reputation in the chess world, both on and off the board. Dispute and controversy followed this unlikely pair wherever they went. When Kamsky finished last in Linares in 1991, Rustam accused Kasparov of poisoning his son's orange juice. Gazza's counter-attack was brilliant: 'He must be mad. I would have poisoned Ivanchuk.' Between them they encapsulated a paranoia that even Fischer would have trouble matching. It was time for someone normal to put Kamsky in his place. Anand was the man for the job.

Kamsky-Anand
Sanghi Nagar Ct (4) 1994
Queen's Indian

1 d4 ♘f6
2 c4 e6
3 ♘f3 b6
4 a3

This system, which prevents ...♗b4, was popularised by Kasparov in the early 1980s.

4 ... ♗b7
5 ♘c3 d5
6 cxd5 ♘xd5
7 ♗d2 ♗e7
8 ♕c2 0-0
9 e4 ♘xc3
10 ♗xc3 ♘d7
11 0-0-0 *(D)*



B

This whole match was characterised by fighting chess, and this game is no exception. With the kings castled on opposite sides an uncompromising game is guaranteed.

11 ... c6

A new move, where previously 11...♕c8 or 11...c5 had been preferred.

12 h4

Gata wastes no time launching his attack.

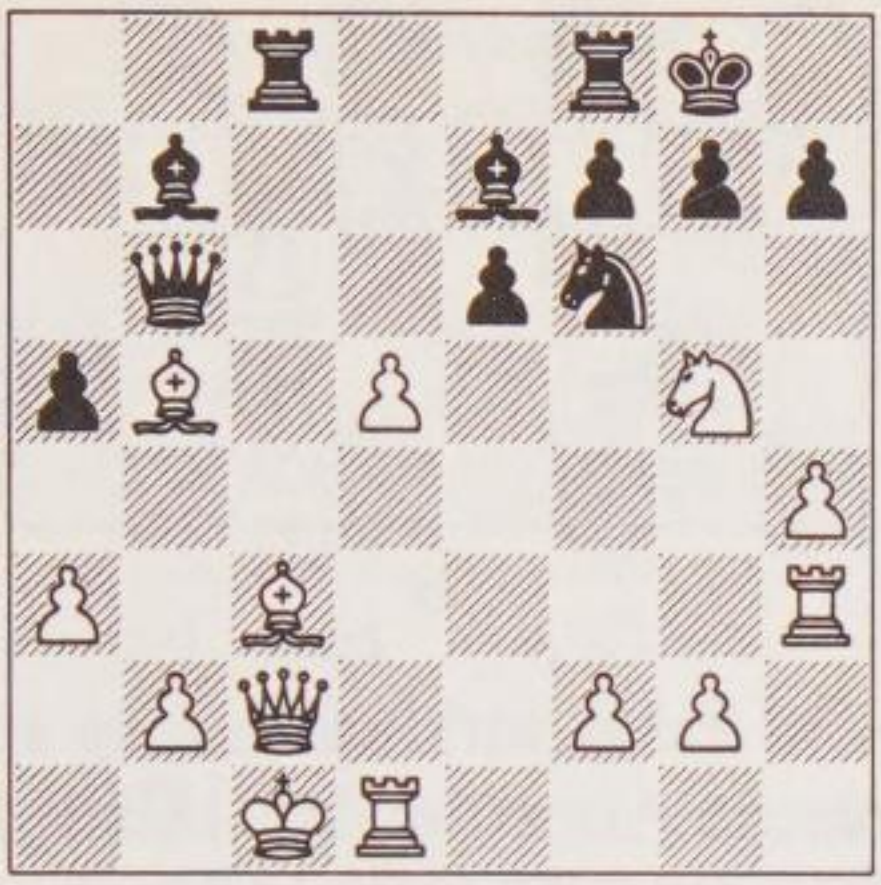
12 ... b5

Likewise Anand.

13 ♖h3 a5
14 d5 cxd5

14...exd5? is not so good after 15 exd5 b4 (15...cxd5 16 ♗xb5 is better for White) 16 dxc6 ♗xc6 17 ♘e5! bxc3 18 ♘xc6 cxb2+ 19 ♔b1 ♕e8 20 ♖e3 winning a piece.

15 ♗xb5 ♘f6
16 ♘g5 ♕b6
17 exd5 ♖ac8! *(D)*



W

The position has been blown open, with both players going straight for the throat. Pawns are irrelevant compared to the opening of lines against the enemy king, which explains the continual offering of central pawns by both players.

18 ♗d7 ♗xd5!

Anand sacrifices the exchange to activate his bishop. 18...♘xd7?? was impossible because of 19 ♕xh7 mate.

19 ♗xc8 ♖xc8
20 ♖xd5

Kamsky decides that the black bishop is too strong and returns the material. A couple of alternatives: 20 ♕d3 h6 21 ♘f3 ♘e4 or 20 ♖e1 ♗b3 21 ♕d2 ♘d5. In both cases Black has a big attack in compensation for the sacrificed exchange.

20 ... exd5

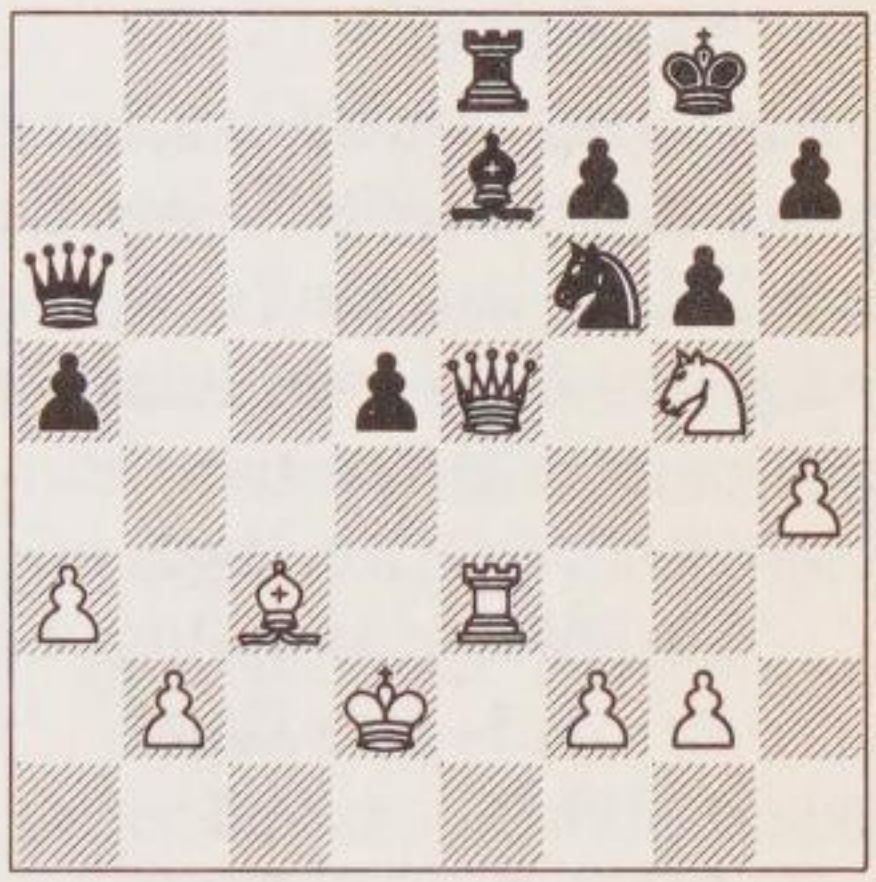
Again not 20...♘xd5?? 21 ♕xh7+ ♔f8 22 ♕h8 mate.

21 ♕f5 ♕a6

Defending the rook and threatening 22...d4 winning the bishop.

22 ♔d2 g6
23 ♕e5 ♖e8
24 ♖e3? *(D)*

Missing Anand's reply, which wins the queen. Better was 24 ♕d4 blockading the d-pawn.



B

24 ... d4!
25 ♗xd4

25 ♕xd4 ♖d8 26 ♖xe7 ♖xd4+ 27 ♗xd4 ♕d6 wins the bishop on d4.

25 ... ♗b4+
26 axb4 ♖xe5
27 ♖xe5 ♕c4
28 ♘f3 ♕xb4+
29 ♔d3

The dust has settled and Anand has won a queen for a rook and bishop, which should be enough to win. However, Kamsky's position is very solid so Anand still has some work to do.

29	**...**	**a4**
30	**♘d2**	**♕b7!**
31	**f3**	**♕a8**
32	**♘c4**	**♘d5**
33	**♘d6**	**♘f4+**
34	**♔d2**	**♘e6**
35	**♗c3**	**♕d8**
36	**♖d5**	**♕xh4**
37	**♘e4**	**♔f8**
38	**♗b4+?**	

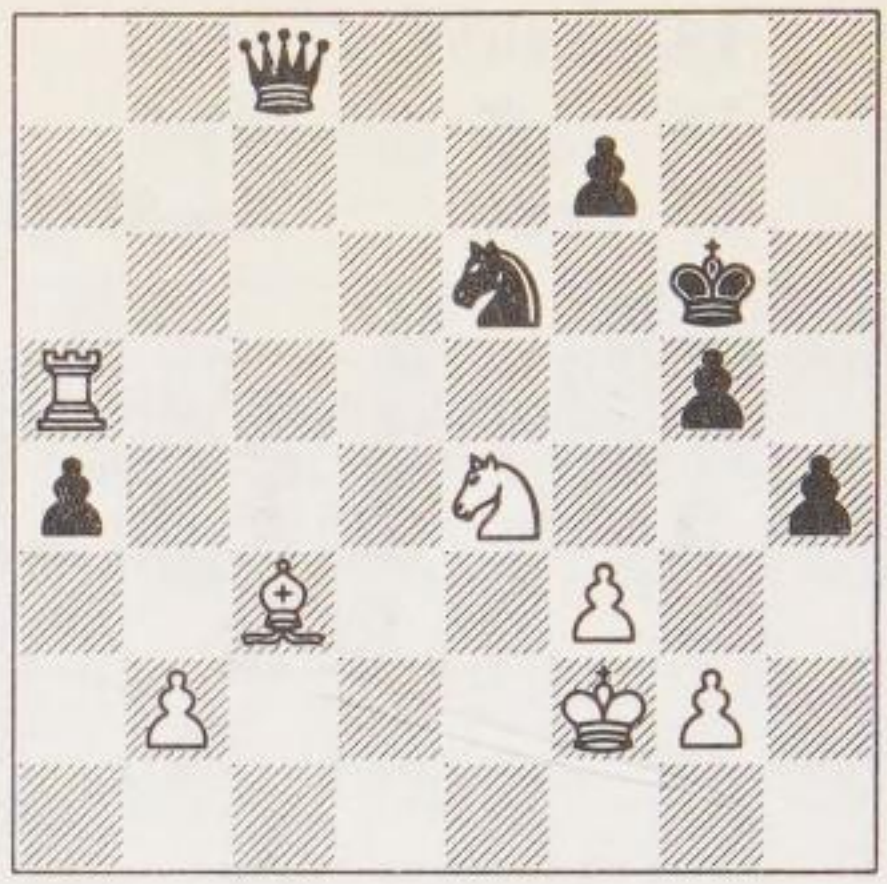
Anand has won a pawn, but after this move the win is easy. Better is 38 ♗f6 attacking the queen, and giving Anand problems with back-rank mate threats.

38	**...**	**♔g7**
39	**♖d7**	**g5!**
40	**♗c3+**	**♔g6**
41	**♔e3**	**h5**
42	**♖a7**	**♕h2**
43	**♔f2**	**♕b8**
44	**♖a6**	**♕c8**
45	**♖a5**	**h4??** *(D)*

This allows Kamsky a trick which would have given him reasonable drawing chances. It would have been preferable to play either 45...♕c6 or 45...♕c7.

46 ♘f6??

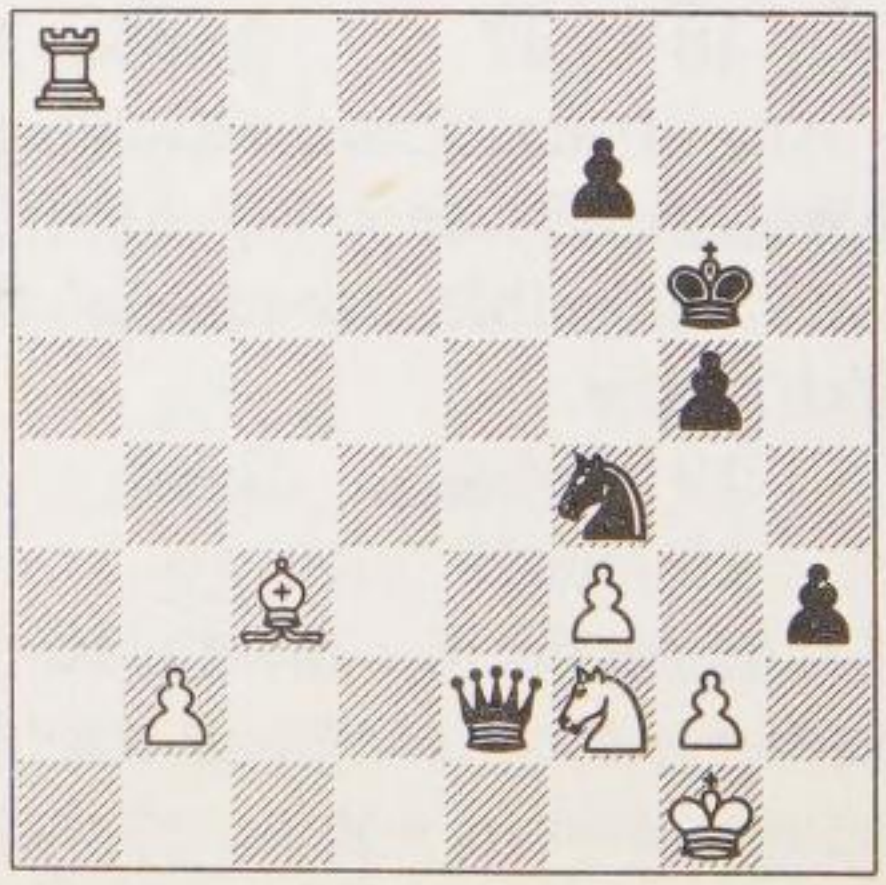
Kamsky misses 46 ♖f5! when 46...♔xf5 is impossible because



B

of 47 ♘d6+ forking the king and queen. After 46 ♖f5! ♕c7 47 ♖f6+ ♔h7 White has a blockade which will be hard to demolish.

46	**...**	**a3!**
47	**♖xa3**	**♕c5+**
48	**♔f1**	**♕b5+**
49	**♔g1**	**♕e2**
50	**♘g4**	**♘f4**
51	**♘f2**	**h3**
52	**♖a8** *(D)*	



B

52 ... h2+!

53 ♔xh2 ♕xf2

Mate on g2 is unavoidable, so **Kamsky resigned**.

Anand-Kamsky
Sanghi Nagar Ct (7) 1994
Spanish, Arkhangelsk

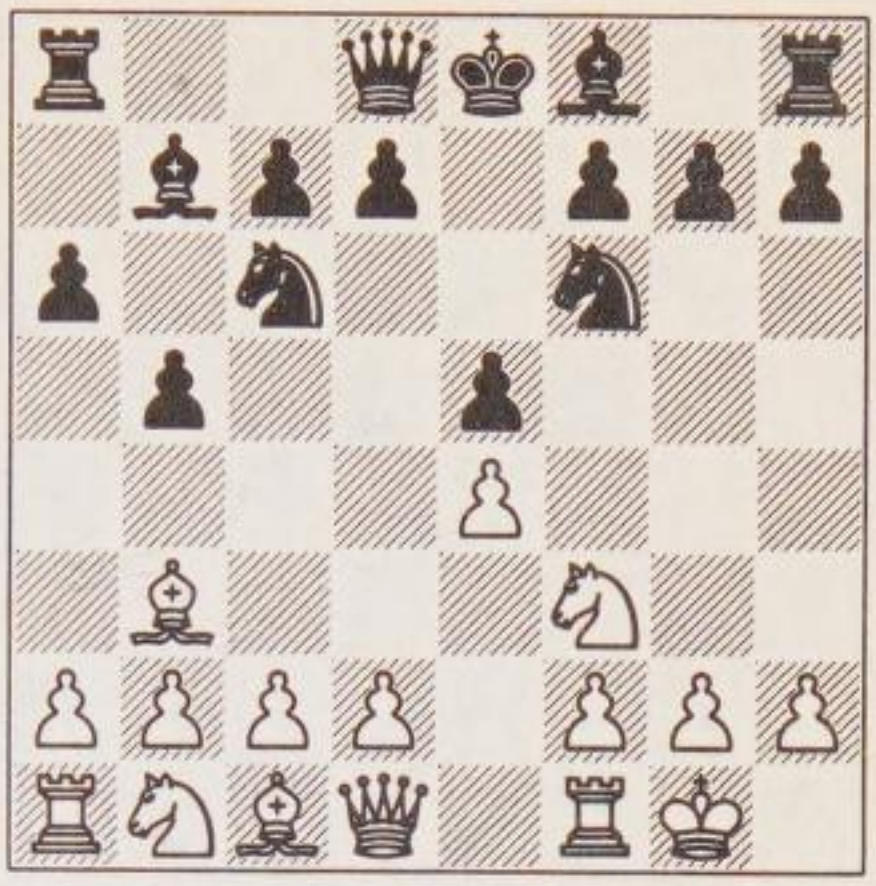
1	**e4**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**♗b5**	**a6**
4	**♗a4**	**♘f6**
5	**0-0**	**b5**

Kamsky decides to play the Arkhangelsk Variation rather than the Marshall Attack, which had already featured in some spectacular games earlier in the match. The trouble with playing the Marshall is that an expert such as Anand would be able to force a draw as White quite easily and Kamsky, a point behind with only two games to play, needs to keep the tension.

6	**♗b3**	**♗b7** *(D)*
7	**d3**	

Anand shies away from the critical 7 ♖e1 ♗c5 8 c3 d6 9 d4, in favour of a more cautious approach. However, as this game shows, playing passively for a draw, especially for a naturally aggressive player, is often a recipe for disaster.

7	**...**	**♗c5**
8	**a4**	**0-0**



W

9	**♗g5**	**h6**
10	**♗h4**	**g5**
11	**♗g3**	**d6**
12	**♘c3**	**b4**
13	**♘d5**	**♘a5**
14	**♘xf6+**	**♕xf6**
15	**♗a2**	**b3!**

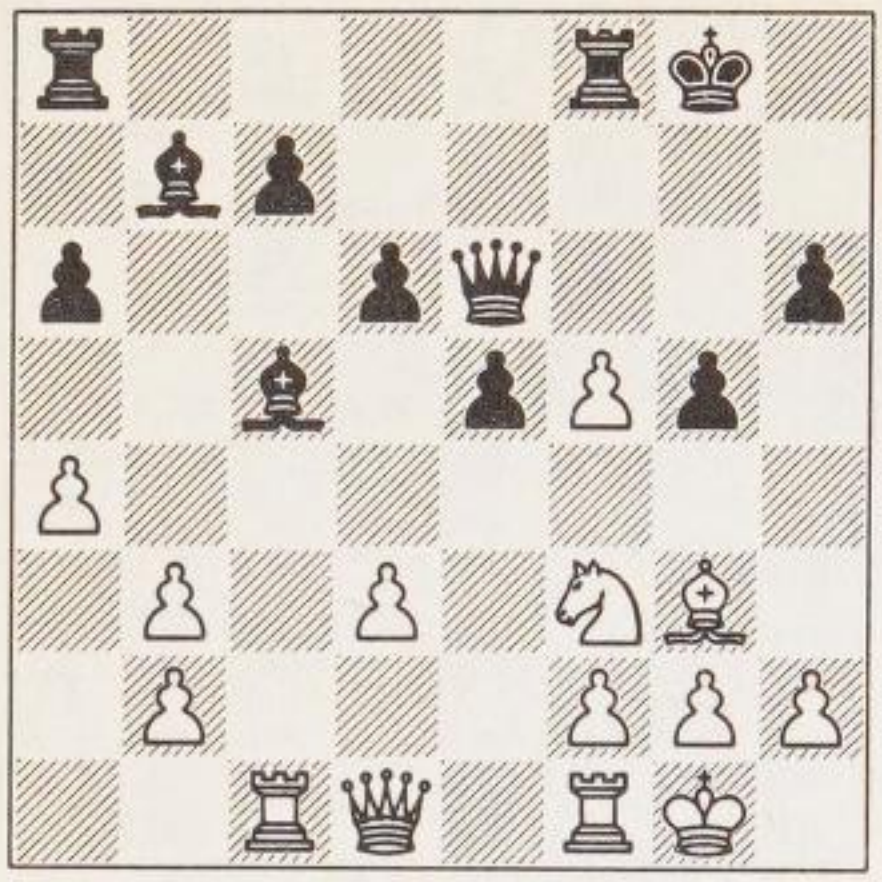
A common theme in Ruy Lopez positions: Black sacrifices a pawn to shatter the white pawns and gain the two bishops.

16 ♗xb3

After 16 cxb3 ♘c6 the bishop is trapped on a2.

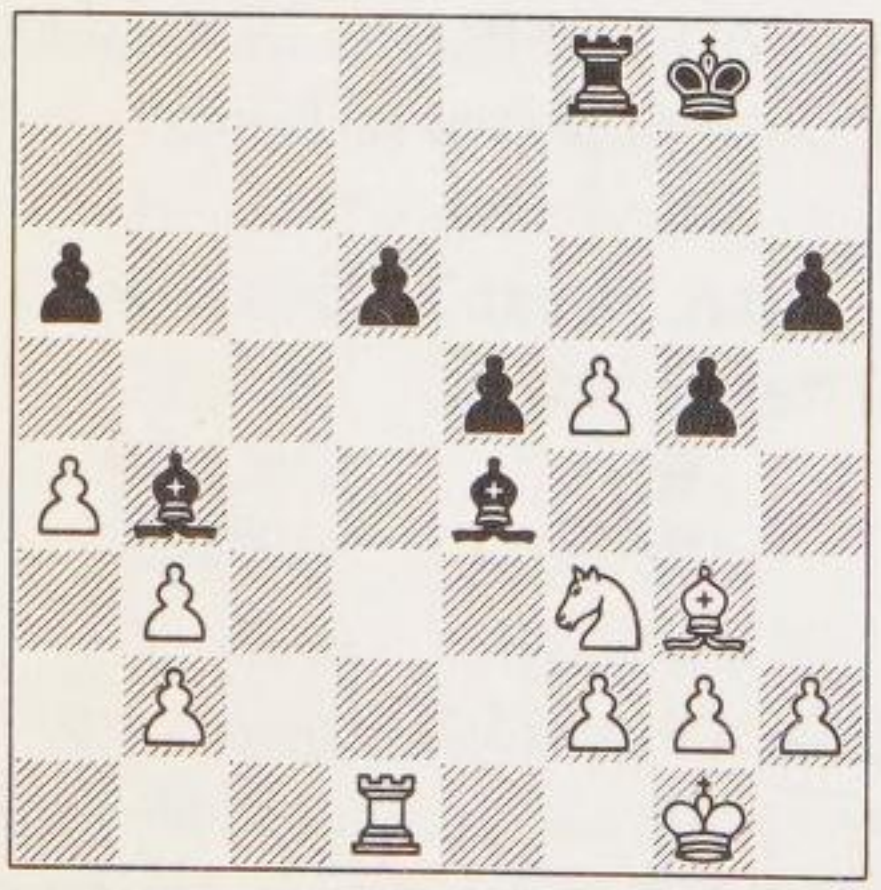
16	**...**	**♘xb3**
17	**cxb3**	**♕e6**
18	**♖c1**	**f5**
19	**exf5** *(D)*	
19	**...**	**♕d5!!**

The f5-pawn won't run away, so Kamsky centralises his queen, lining up with the bishop against g2. After Anand's passive opening play Kamsky is already much better.



B

20	**d4**	**♗xd4**
21	**♖xc7**	**♖f7**
22	**♕c2**	**♖xc7**
23	**♕xc7**	**♖f8**
24	**♕c2**	**♗c5**
25	**♖e1**	**♗b4**
26	**♖d1**	**♕e4**
27	**♕xe4**	**♗xe4** *(D)*



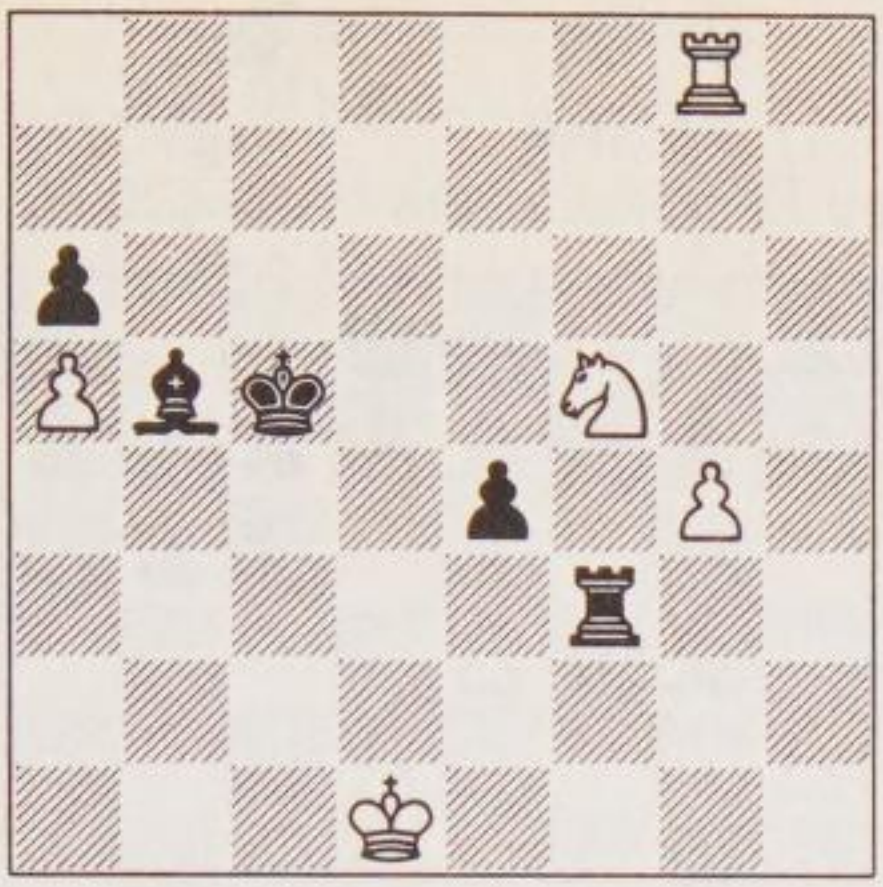
W

With the queens off White no longer faces mating threats, but despite his extra two pawns Anand is now in dire straits due to the domination of the two black bishops. In fact Gata now threatens to swap one of them off with ...♗xf3 after which the white bishop would be permanently incarcerated on g3.

28	**♘e1**	**♗xf5**
29	**f3**	**♖c8**
30	**h4**	**♗e6**
31	**♘d3**	**♗xb3**
32	**♖a1**	**♗d2**
33	**hxg5**	**hxg5**
34	**♖a3**	**♗c2**
35	**♗e1**	**♗e3+**
36	**♗f2**	**♗d2**
37	**♗e1**	**♗xe1**
38	**♘xe1**	**♗f5**

Kamsky as regained his sacrificed pawns and now has an extremely good ending, as shown by a comparison between his active bishop and Anand's stranded knight.

39	**♖b3**	**♔f7**
40	**♖b6**	**♔e6**
41	**a5**	**♖c1**
42	**♔f2**	**♖b1**
43	**g4**	**♗g6**
44	**♘g2**	**♗d3**
45	**♘e3**	**♗b5**
46	**♘f5**	**♖xb2+**
47	**♔e1**	**♔d5**
48	**♖xd6+**	**♔c5**
49	**♖g6**	**♖e2+**
50	**♔d1**	**♖f2**
51	**♖xg5**	**♖xf3**
52	**♖g8**	**e4** *(D)*



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Material is still equal, but Kamsky's active pieces mean that Anand will eventually have to give up material to stop the e-pawn.

53 ♔d2

53 ♖c8+ ♔b4 54 ♔d2 ♖d3+ 55 ♔e1 e3 also wins for Black.

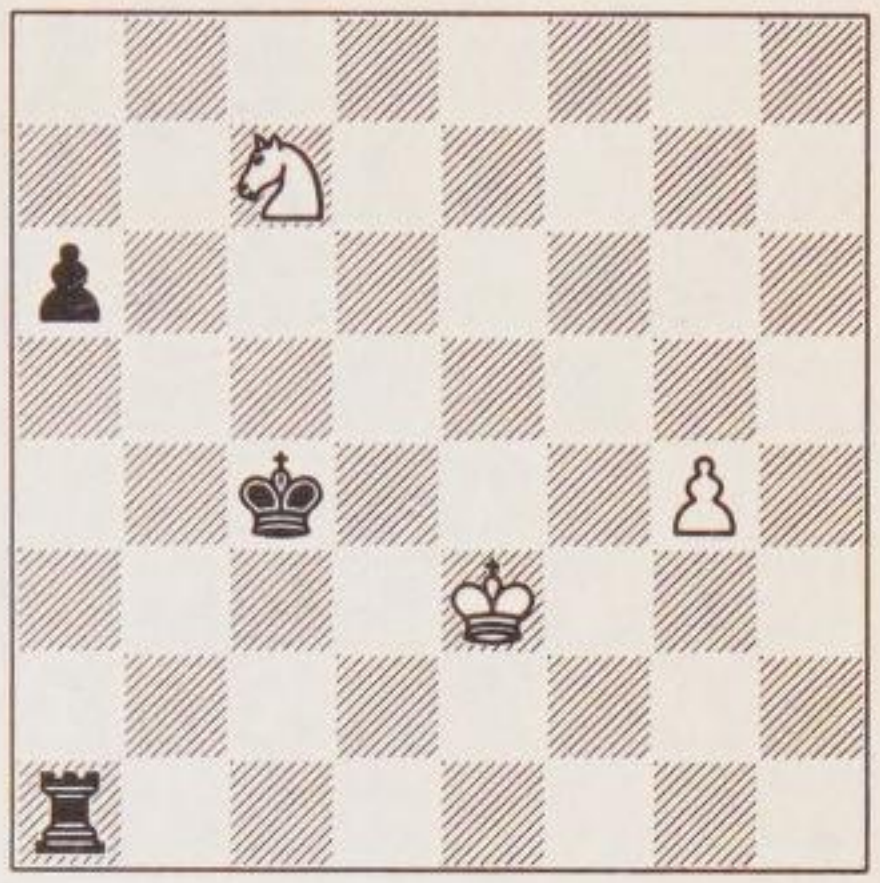
53	**...**	**♖d3+**
54	**♔e1**	**e3**
55	**♖c8+**	**♔b4**
56	**♖c2**	**♖b3**
57	**♖c1**	**♖b2**
58	**♘d4**	

58 ♘xe3 loses the knight after 58...♖e2+.

58	**...**	**♖g2**
59	**♘c6+**	**♔b3**
60	**♘d4+**	**♔b4**
61	**♘c6+**	**♔a4**
62	**♖a1+**	**♔b3**
63	**♘d4+**	**♔c4**
64	**♘xb5**	**♖g1+**

Winning the rook on a1.

65	**♔e2**	**♖xa1**
66	**♘c7**	**♖xa5**
67	**♔xe3**	**♖a1** *(D)*



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The knight cannot cope with the a-pawn while the rook can easily swing over to hold up the g-pawn, so **Anand resigned**.

Kamsky-Anand

Sanghi Nagar Ct (10) 1994

Play-off (30 minutes)

Queen's Pawn

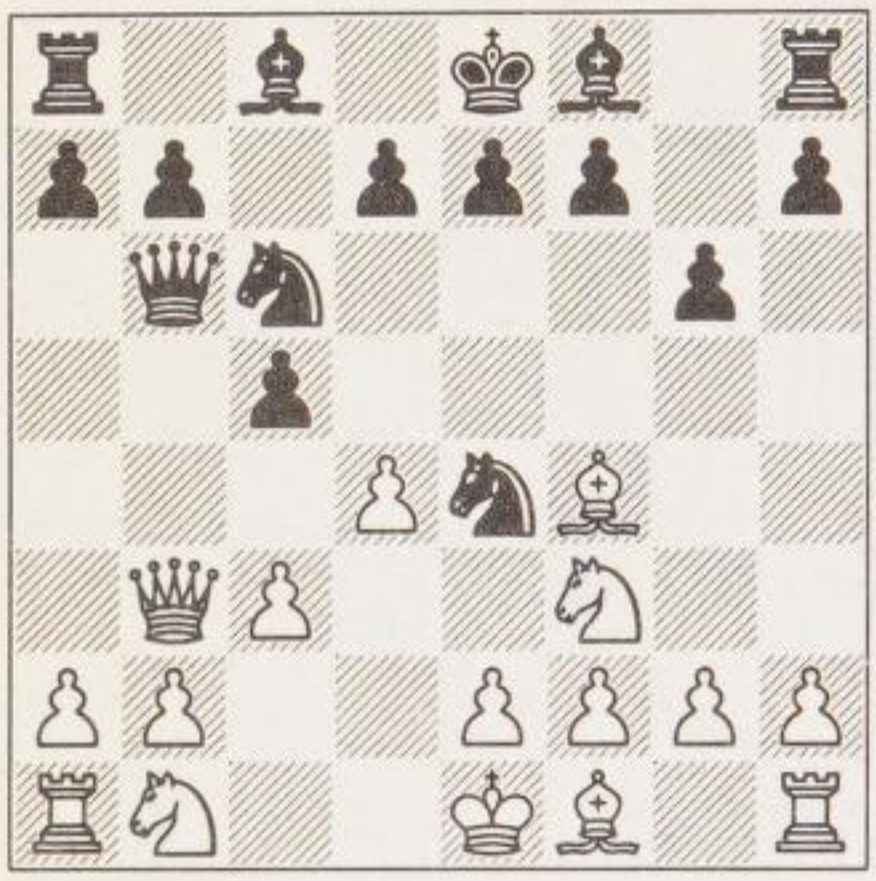
1	**d4**	**♘f6**
2	**♘f3**	**c5**
3	**c3**	

Having won the first play-off game, Kamsky is content to play the solid 3 c3.

3	**...**	**g6**
4	**♗g5**	**♕b6**
5	**♕b3**	

Again Kamsky takes no risks, offering an early exchange of queens.

5 ... ♘e4
6 ♗f4 ♘c6? *(D)*



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Anand is desperate to create some sort of imbalance in the position, but he should first play 6...♗g7 or 6...d6.

7 d5!

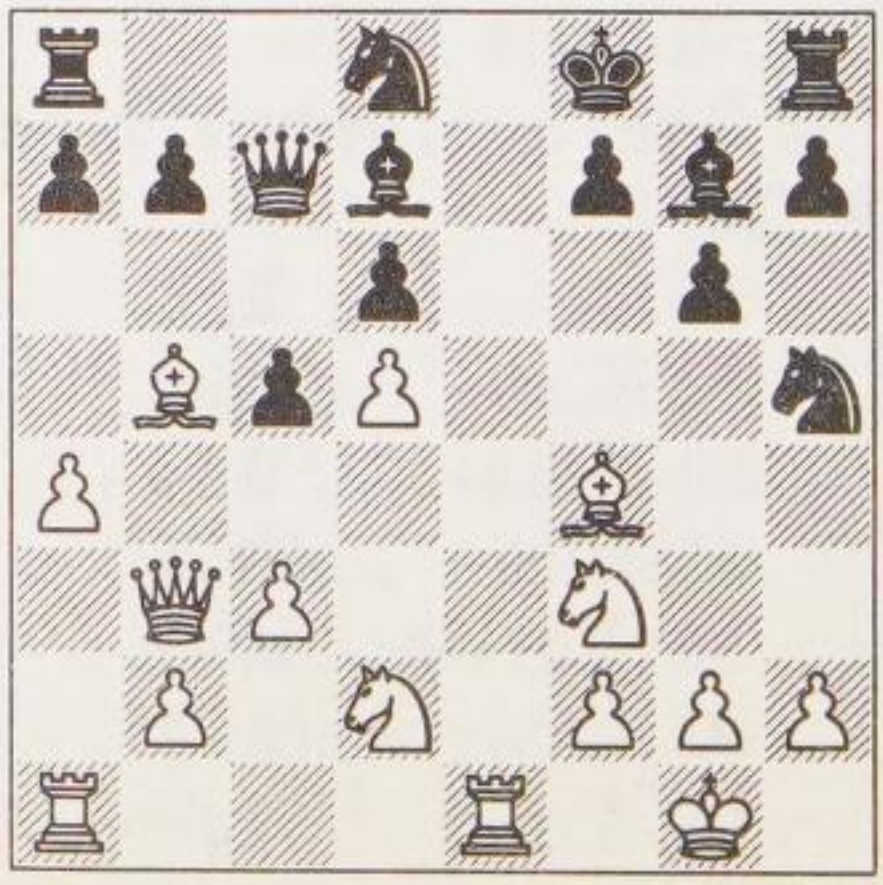
The solid 7 e3 was possible, but the temptation is too great for Kamsky and he correctly pushes his d-pawn. Anand now has a problem with his knight. Retreating to b8 would waste too much time while after 7...♘a5 8 ♕xb6 axb6 9 ♘bd2 ♘xd2 10 ♘xd2 followed by 11 e4 the knight is permanently out of the game on a5. The only other option is d8 as played, but again the knight has very limited scope.

7 ... ♘d8
8 ♘bd2 ♘f6
9 e4 d6
10 ♗b5+ ♗d7
11 a4 ♕c7
12 0-0 ♗g7 *(D)*

W

Black is close to completing his development with 13...0-0 when he might just about be OK, but Kamsky has forgotten all thoughts of a quick draw and goes in for the kill.

13 e5! ♘h5
14 exd6 exd6
15 ♖fe1+ ♔f8 *(D)*



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16 ♗xd7 ♕xd7
17 ♕b5

The queen cannot go to c7 because of 18 ♕e8 mate, and after the forced 17...♕xb5 18 ♗xd6+ ♔g8 19 axb5 (threatening 20 ♖e8+) 19...♘f6 20 ♗xc5 White is two pawns up with an overwhelming position, so **Anand resigned.**

11 The Machine Stopped

So it was Anand and not Kamsky who had been stopped. It was Anand who was left to pick up the pieces. The nice guy doesn't always win.

In an interview with *New In Chess* Anand talks about how he coped with his loss in Sanghi Nagar. 'I can still tell you it will be difficult to show you these games. I can't even bear to look at them ... So I just put it out of my mind ... I erased the hard disc; that's basically it.'

This isn't true, and this is not Anand. He is self-critical and this gives him the ability to learn from mistakes. He admits as much later in the interview: 'I remember some things from Sanghi Nagar. That I had to work harder, for instance, just these general things. So I can't even say these were specific lessons.' My view is that it is the 'general things' that are all-important. For many years Anand had the ingredients to be one of the world's best. But things, the 'specifics', did not quite gel. There was the odd short-circuit, and this had to be eliminated. Between Sanghi Nagar and Las Palmas, I think Anand developed as a player and a person. When I put this point to his father in Madras, he agreed.

But the Kamsky Machine was becoming more lethal day by day. In Linares Kamsky rolled over Short, who is a formidable match player, with the same ease with which Anand dispatched his compatriot. Then over to the FIDE cycle in Sanghi Nagar and Kamsky blows away Valery Salov, who hitherto had been on terrific form. There were a fearsome pair, father and son. In Linares, Short had told Gata to drink some water to prevent his disturbing coughing. Whether or not this was a tactical ploy by Short is unclear, but Gata's father rather over-reacted. During dinner he came up to Short and threatened to kill him!

The Kamskys were also stirring it up in the sub-continent. During the FIDE Matches in Sanghi Nagar, they complained so much that the sponsors announced that they would not support any future chess events if Gata Kamsky was playing. The more organisers tried to crack down, the more the Kamskys felt

themselves victims of persecution. Perhaps the worst incident occurred during the match with Salov. Screams were heard coming from the Kamsky bungalow. Soon afterwards a rather bruised Grandmaster Shabalov returned to the US. Kamsky Senior denied that he had assaulted Gata's second. Shabalov, he explained, had a cold, but they were glad to be rid of him as he wasn't up to working their usual twelve-hour days. Safely back in the US, Shabalov admitted he had been assaulted.

This was not the image that the PCA wanted to be associated with. They introduced stringent new rules in Las Palmas. One only needs to look at point 7 to see who they were getting at: 'In the case of physically or verbally aggressive or intimidating conduct by a player or a member of a delegation toward any other individual involved with an event, the PCA, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, may take any of the following actions:

i) Fine a player up to $25,000;

ii) Rule that a player has forfeited a game or match;

iii) If the offensive act was committed by a member of the player's delegation, ask such person to leave the city where the event is being held. Refusal by such a person to comply will result in penalties to the player described in 7 i) and/or ii) above.

The Kamskys protested for some hours and sent a cry for help to the nearby tournament in Linares. Though several grandmasters sent their written support, the organisers were intransigent.

The upshot of it all was that Daddy Kamsky just had to behave himself; the threat of a $25,000 fine *and* banishment would make most people reasonable. The players would just have to concentrate on the chess...

Anand-Kamsky
Las Palmas PCA Ct (1) 1995
Spanish, Zaitsev

1	**e4**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**♗b5**	**a6**
4	**♗a4**	**♘f6**
5	**0-0**	**♗e7**
6	**♖e1**	**b5**

Gata opts for a main line Ruy Lopez instead of the Arkhangelsk Variation, which brought him success in their previous match.

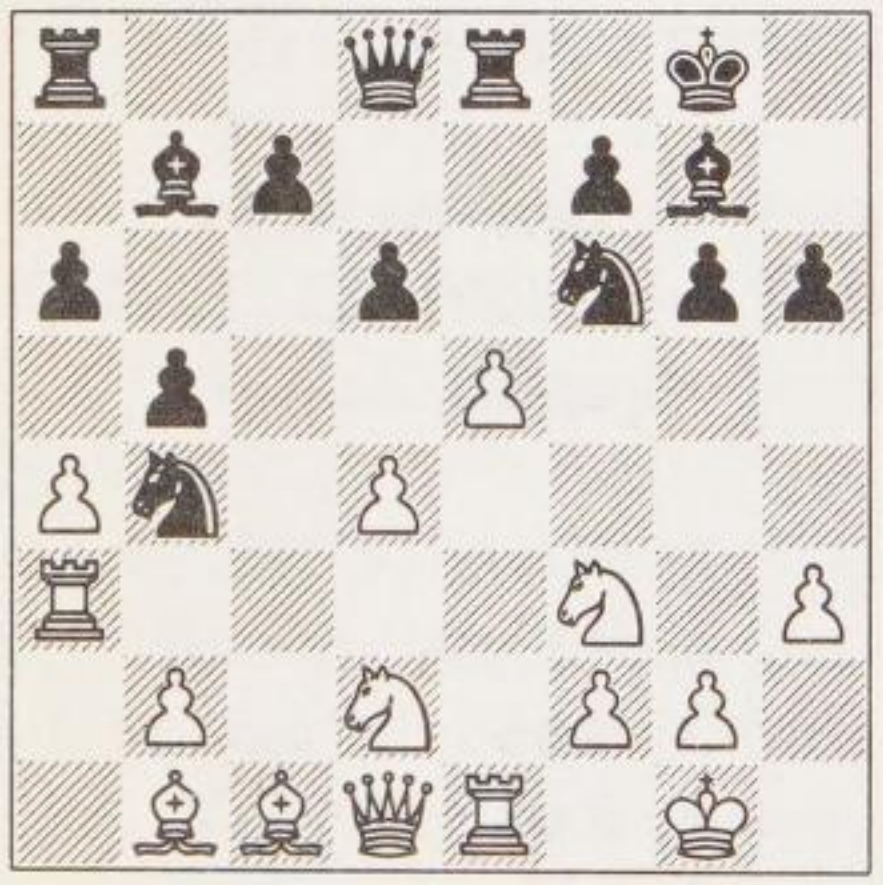
7	**♗b3**	**d6**
8	**c3**	**0-0**
9	**h3**	**♗b7**
10	**d4**	**♖e8**
11	**♘bd2**	**♗f8**

12 a4 h6
13 ♗c2 exd4
14 cxd4 ♘b4

This is the Zaitsev Variation, which was played many times in the Kasparov-Karpov matches.

15 ♗b1 g6
16 ♖a3 ♗g7
17 e5 *(D)*

This is the first new move. 17 ♖ae3 c5 18 d5 ♘d7 19 ♘f1 ♘b6! 20 axb5 axb5 21 h4 ♘c4 22 ♖b3 ♖a1 23 ♗d2 ♘xb2 was clearly better for Black in Ernst-Razuvaev, Reykjavik 1990.



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17 ... dxe5
18 dxe5 ♘h5
19 axb5

19 e6 was a tempting option but in fact Black would have been better after 19...♖xe6 20 ♖xe6 fxe6 21 ♗xg6 ♘f4 22 ♗b1 ♕d5! with heavy pressure along the a8-h1 diagonal.

19 ... axb5
20 ♕b3 c5
21 ♘e4

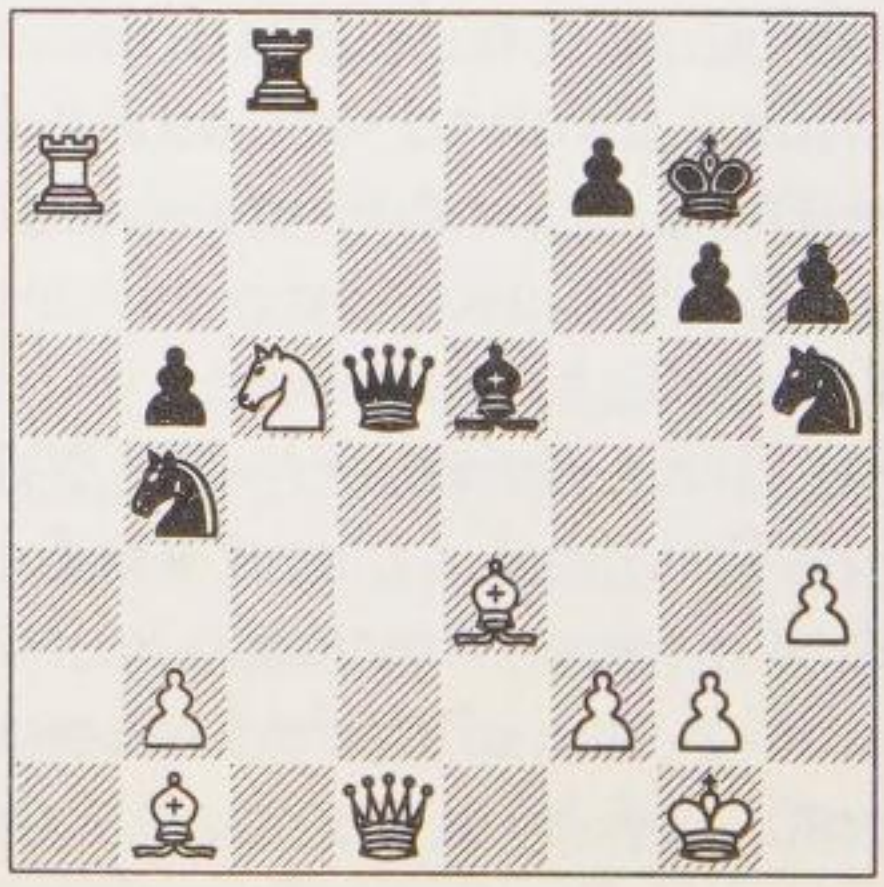
In view of the threat of ♘xc5 and ♘d6, Black is now forced to give up the two bishops.

21 ... ♗xe5
22 ♘xc5 ♗xf3
23 ♕xf3 ♖c8
24 ♘e4 ♔g7
25 ♖d1 ♕e7
26 ♗e3 ♖ed8

26...♗xb2 is not so good due to 27 ♖a7 ♖c7 28 ♗c5 ♕xc5 29 ♘xc5 ♖xa7 when Anand has good winning chances with his queen against rook, knight and pawn.

27 ♖a7 ♕e6
28 ♘c5 ♖xd1+
29 ♕xd1 ♕d5 *(D)*

29...♕d6 would have been better, keeping the rooks on and at the same time defending g6.



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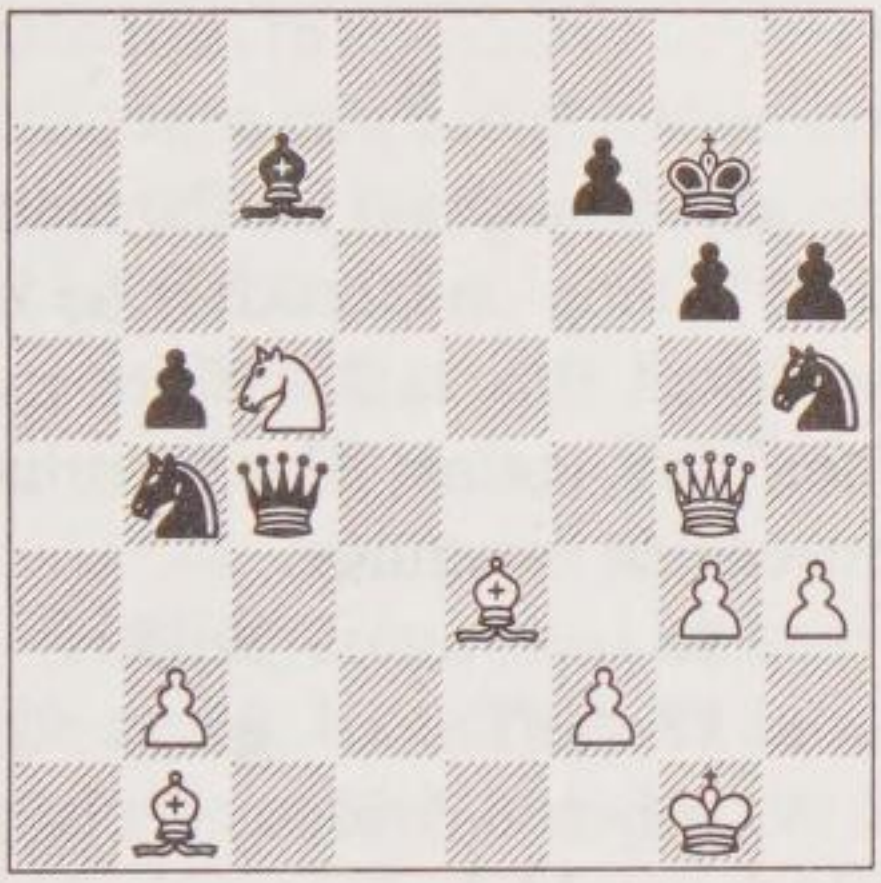
30 ♕g4 ♖c7
31 ♖xc7 ♗xc7
32 g3!

Stopping all Black's back-rank mate threats by allowing the king to move to h2. Now Anand can start thinking about his own attacking chances.

32 ... ♕c4 *(D)*



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Here the incredible happened. With eight moves still to make, Anand, the player renowned as the fastest in the world, actually lost on time! To make matters worse, later analysis showed that Anand was winning the final position after 33 ♗d4+ ♘f6 34 ♗xg6!, for example 34...fxg6 35 ♕d7+ ♕f7 36 ♘e6+ ♔g8 37 ♕xf7+ ♔xf7 38 ♘xc7 when the b5 pawn will also fall.

0-1

This was a tragic loss for the Indian.

So the unthinkable had happened: the fastest player in the world loses on time. 'To be honest, at this point I just told myself I was finished.' This may have been Anand's initial thought, but the way he bounced back proved just how tough he had become.

Anand-Kamsky
Las Palmas PCA Ct (3) 1995
Spanish, Arkhangelsk

1 e4 e5
2 ♘f3 ♘c6
3 ♗b5 a6
4 ♗a4 ♘f6
5 0-0 b5
6 ♗b3 ♗b7

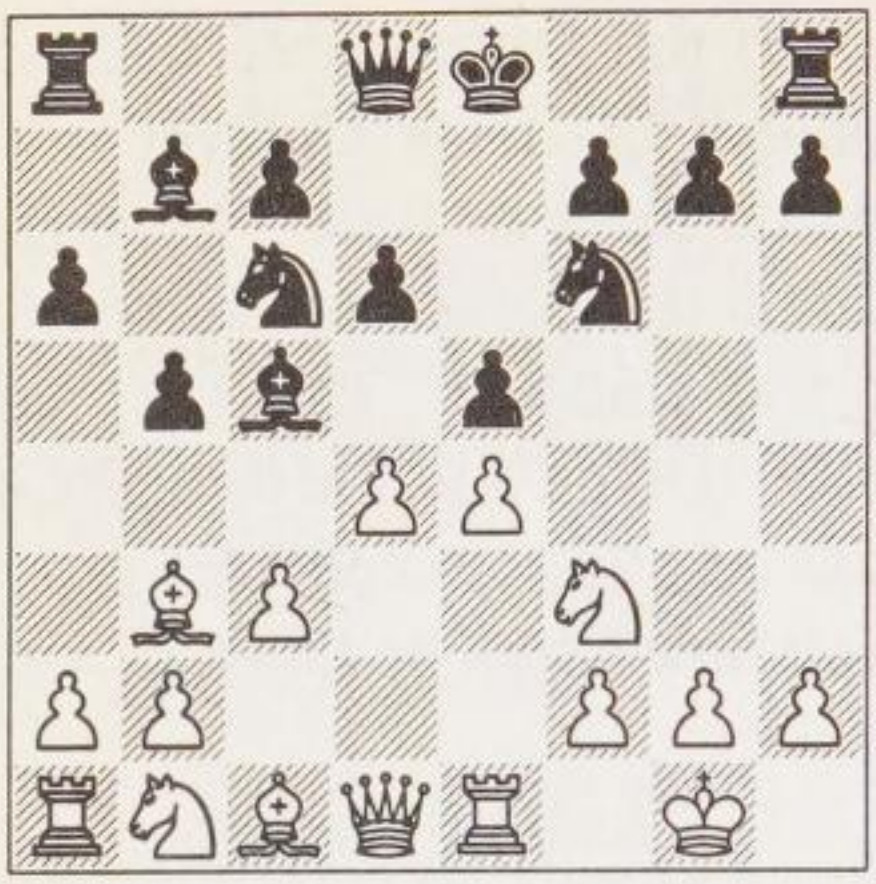
Although he eventually won, Kamsky had problems in the opening of the first game, so here he reverts to one of his favourite defences, the Arkhangelsk.

7 ♖e1 ♗c5
8 c3 d6
9 d4 *(D)*

Unlike their encounter in the FIDE match, Anand takes on Kamsky's pet opening head-on, playing the theoretically recommended idea of quickly expanding in the centre.

9 ... ♗b6
10 ♗e3 0-0

Kamsky cannot take the e-pawn as 10...♘xe4? 11 d5 ♘e7



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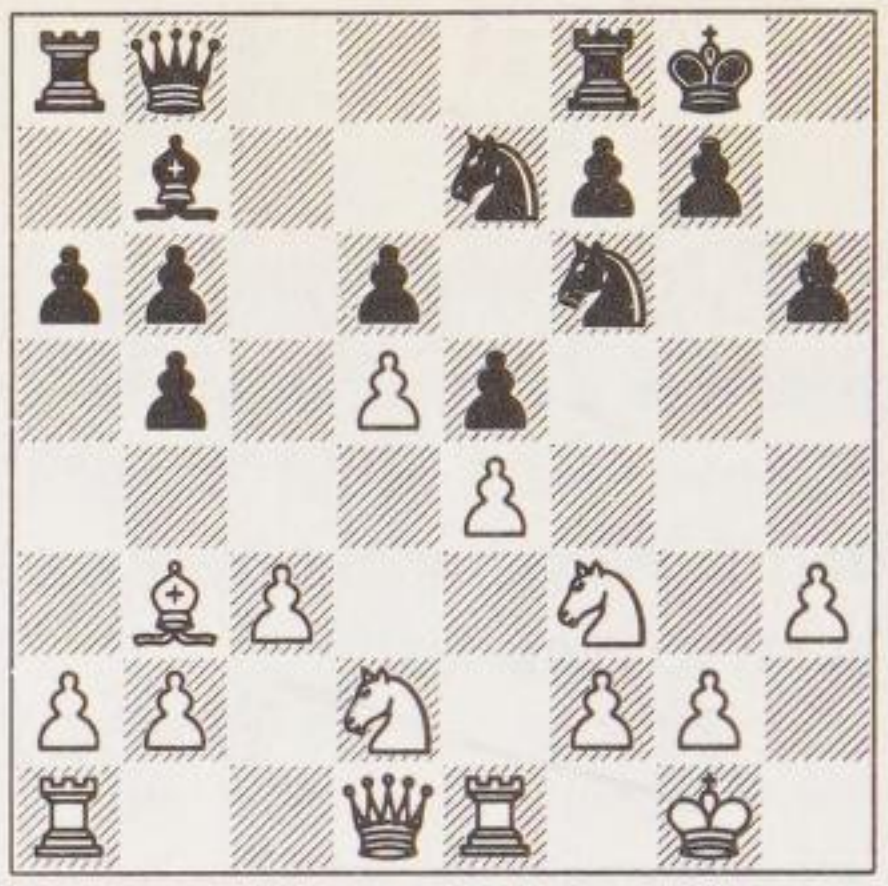

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12 ♗xb6 cxb6 13 ♖xe4 wins a piece.

11 ♘bd2 h6
12 h3 ♕b8

A strange innovation, which Anand punishes positionally, before Black had time to play the intended 13...♕a7. Against Nigel Short in their semi-final match in Linares in 1994 Kamsky had played 12...♘d7 and won a spectacular game. Was he scared that Anand had found an improvement?

13 d5 ♘e7
14 ♗xb6 cxb6 *(D)*

With his b-pawns doubled, Black no longer has the thematic central pawn break with ...c6, and so will struggle for counterplay.

15 ♗c2 ♘d7
16 ♘h4!

An important move. White must deter Black from playing ...f5 which may ultimately open the a8-h1 diagonal for the redundant bishop on b7. After he has achieved this task, White may then play against Black's ruined queenside structure.

16 ... ♕d8
17 ♘f1 g5

A risky and dubious decision. Black would do better play quietly and prepare the ...f5 thrust. Now, ...f5 is playable but at the cost of seriously weakening his kingside.

18 ♘f3 f5
19 exf5 ♘xf5
20 ♘3h2!

An excellent move allowing the queen and knight to exploit Black's various light-squared weaknesses. 20 ♘3h2, incidentally, was predicted by the computer chess program *Fritz3* – unusual since this sort of positional idea is generally beyond a computer's abilities.

20	**...**	**♕f6**
21	**♘g4**	**♕g7**
22	**♘ge3!**	

Exchanging knights further weakens Black's light squares.

22	**...**	**♘xe3**
23	**♘xe3**	**♖f4**
24	**a4**	**♖af8**

Kamsky realises that he is being outplayed positionally, so he attempts to stir things up by sacrificing a pawn to generate some counterplay on the kingside.

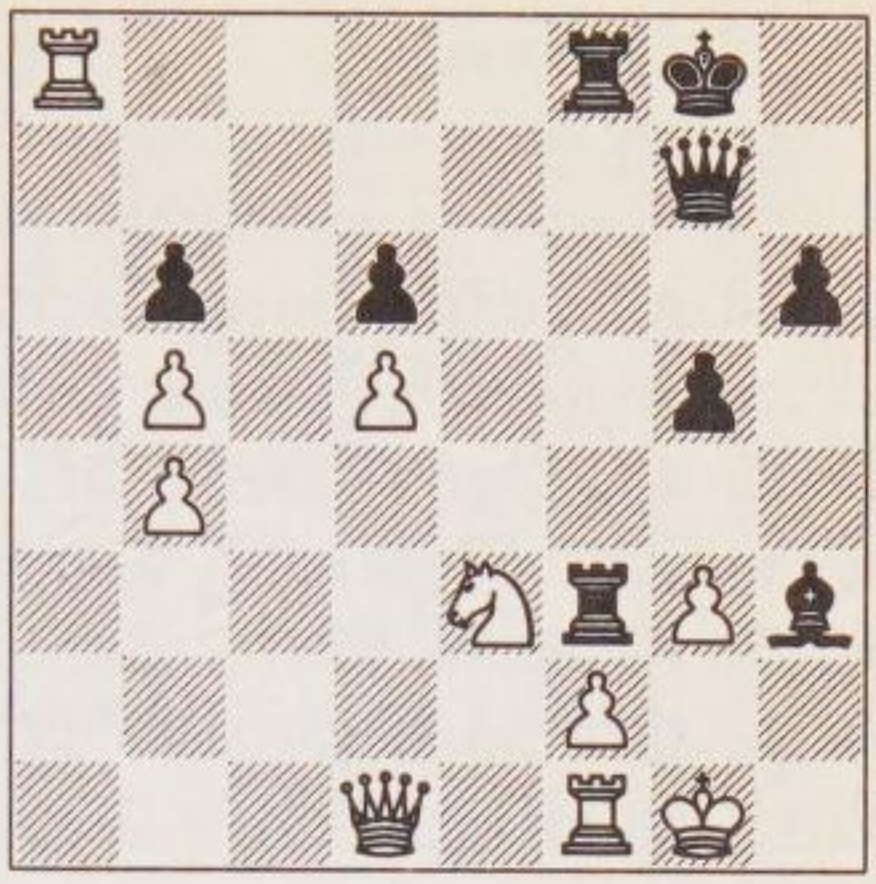
25	**axb5**	**a5**
26	**♖f1**	**♗c8**
27	**g3**	**♖4f7**
28	**b4**	**e4**

Having committed himself to the attack, Kamsky gives another pawn to activate his knight and bishop.

29	**♗xe4**	**♘e5**
30	**♗g2**	**axb4**
31	**cxb4**	**♘f3+**
32	**♗xf3**	**♖xf3**
33	**♖a8**	**♗xh3** *(D)*

It looks like Kamsky has managed to drum up some threats, because 34 ♖e1 allows 34...♖xf2, and 34 ♘g2 leaves the knight passively placed. However, the Indian has everything under control, as his following move demonstrates.

34	**♕xf3!**	**♖xa8**
35	**♖c1**	**♖f8**
36	**♕e2**	**♗d7**



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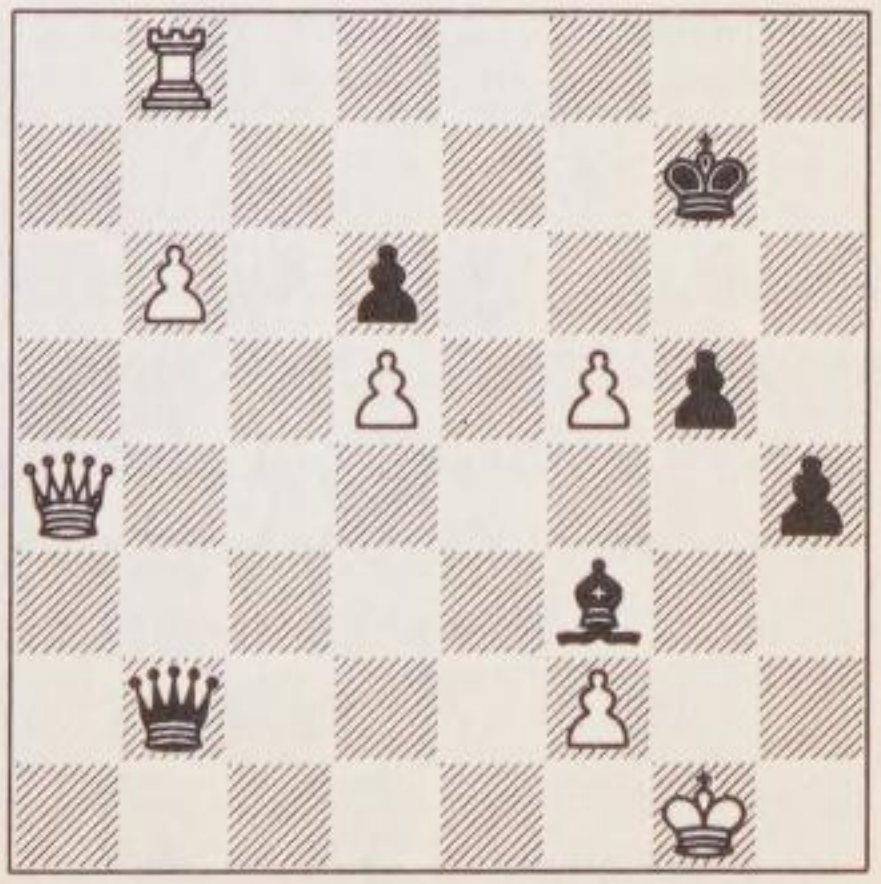
37	**♖c7**	**♖f7**
38	**♖b7**	**♕a1+**
39	**♘f1**	**♔g7**
40	**♖xb6**	**♕d4**
41	**♖b8**	**♕xb4**
42	**♘e3**	**h5**
43	**b6**	**h4**
44	**g4**	**♗b5**
45	**♕d1**	**♕b2**
46	**♘f5+**	**♖xf5**
47	**gxf5**	**♗e2**
48	**♕a4**	**♗f3** *(D)*



W

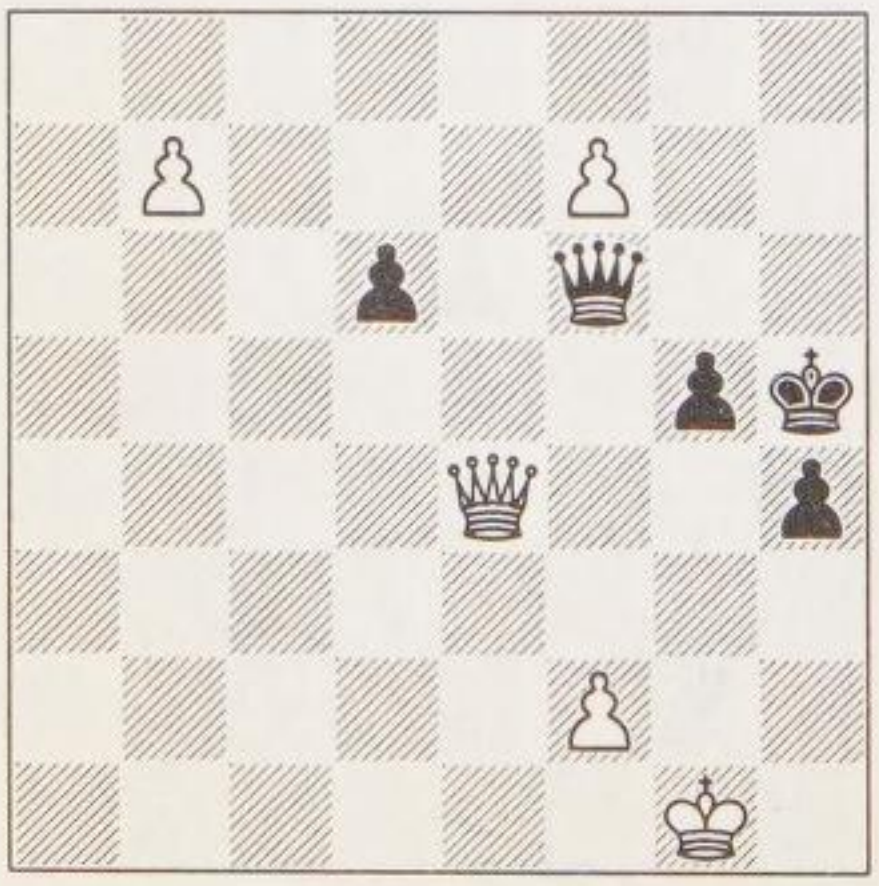
49 ♕d7+?

Having done all the hard work Anand makes an oversight which could quite easily have cost him victory. An easier win was 49 f6+ ♕xf6 (49...♔g6 50 ♕e8+ ♔f5 51 ♕e6+ ♔f4 52 ♕xd6+ ♔g4 53 ♕d7+ ♔f4 54 ♕c7+ ♔f5 55 ♕c8+ ♔f4 56 ♕c4+ ♔f5 57 f7 ♕b1+ 58 ♕f1) 50 ♕d7+ ♔g6 51 ♕e6.

49	**...**	**♔h6**
50	**♕e6+**	**♔h5**
51	**♕e8+**	**♔g4**

A move that Anand claimed that he had missed! Fortunately White is still winning.

52	**♕e1!**	**♗xd5**
53	**♖e8**	**♗f3**
54	**f6**	**♔h5**
55	**f7**	**♕d4**
56	**♖e4**	**♕f6**
57	**b7**	**♗xe4**
58	**♕xe4** *(D)*	



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Black has no perpetual check and one of the pawns must queen, so **Kamsky resigned.**

Anand-Kamsky

Las Palmas PCA Ct (9) 1995

Sicilian Najdorf

1	**e4**	**c5**

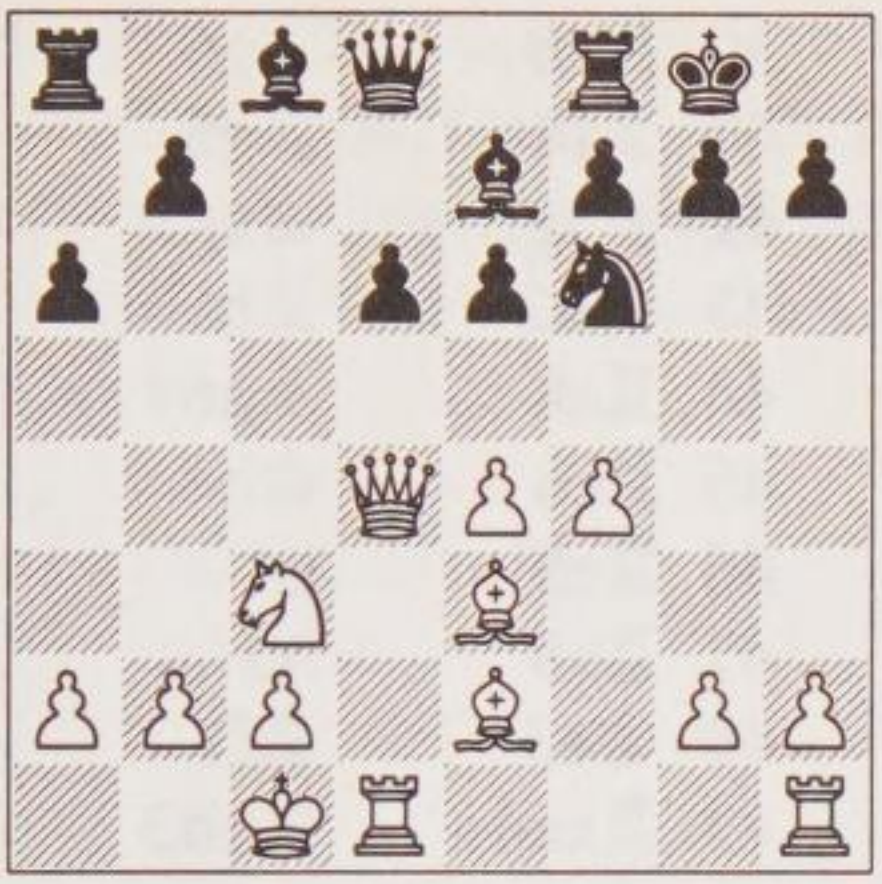
A point down with two games to play, Kamsky decides to play the Sicilian Defence rather than his more usual 1...e5. While the decision is understandable it is also extremely risky, since Anand is a renowned expert against the Sicilian. As Anand demonstrates in this game, his opponent would have been better off playing solidly with Black and going all out for the win with White in the final game.

2	**♘f3**	**d6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
5	**♘c3**	**a6**

Kamsky adopts the Najdorf Variation, Kasparov's favourite weapon. However, Anand commented after the game that the Najdorf is not in fact that dangerous if White really knows what he is doing and is content with equality.

6	**♗e3**	**e6**
7	**♗e2**	**♗e7**
8	**f4**	**♘c6**

9	**♕d2**	**♘xd4**
10	**♕xd4**	**0-0**
11	**0-0-0** *(D)*	



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11	**...**	**♕a5?**

Better is 11...♘d7 12 ♗f3 b5 keeping the tension.

12	**♕b6!**	

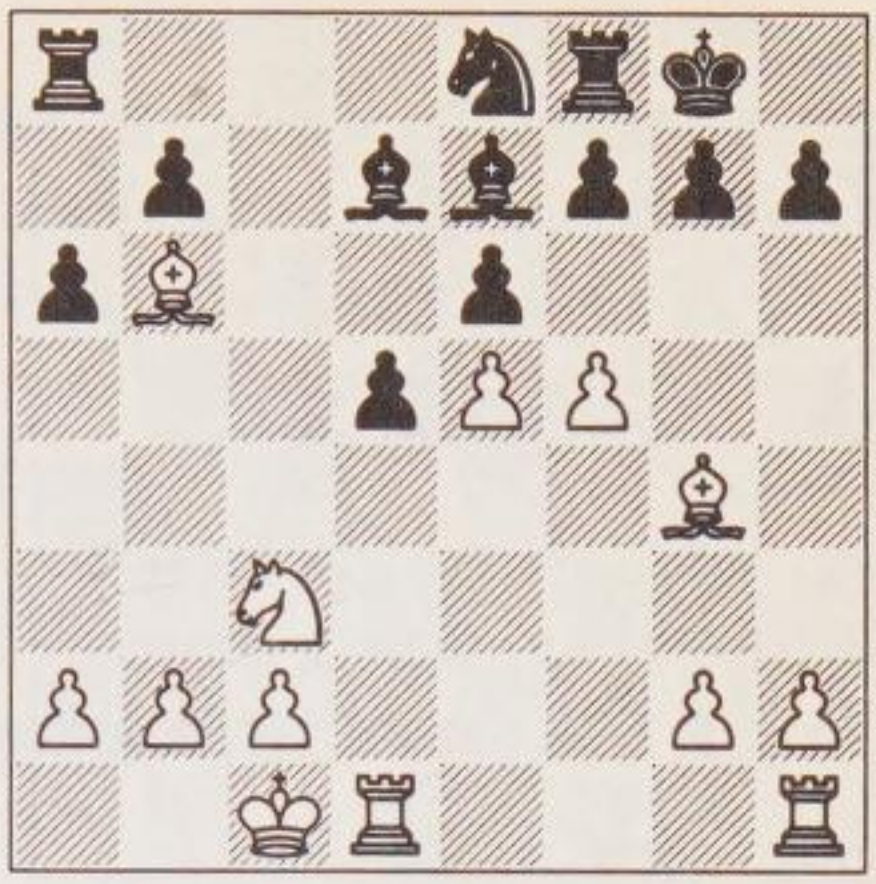
Forcing the queen exchange gives Anand a lasting initiative and more importantly, given the match situation, reduces Black's winning chances to an absolute minimum.

12	**...**	**♕xb6**
13	**♗xb6**	**♘e8**

13...♘d7? 14 ♗c7 wins the d6-pawn.

14	**e5**	**d5**
15	**f5**	**♗d7**
16	**♗g4** *(D)*	
16	**...**	**♗c8??**

An incredible decision wasting two clear moves. Anand later commented that he had to pinch



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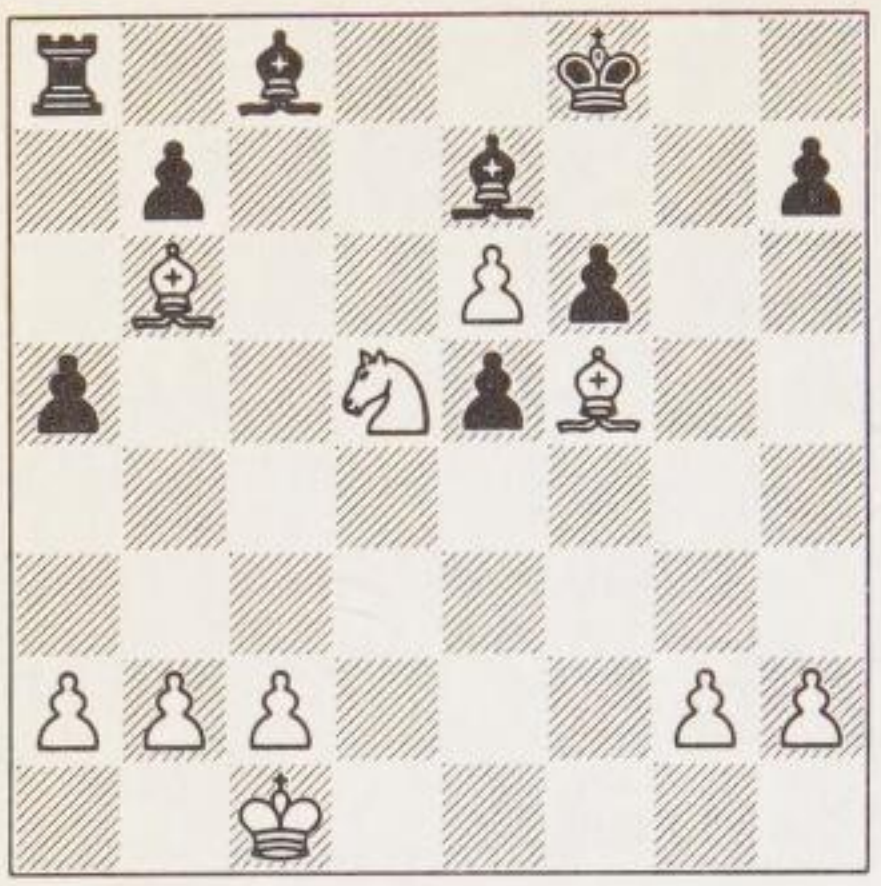
himself because he could hardly believe his own eyes. Black should have played 16...exf5 17 ♗f3 when Anand is still better, but at least Kamsky can make a game of it.

17	**♖hf1**	**a5**
18	**♘a4**	**f6**
19	**fxe6**	**fxe5**
20	**♘c3**	**♗g5+**

Kamsky seemingly has some counterplay after 20...♖xf1 21 ♖xf1 ♘f6, but this allows Anand a stunning positional sacrifice: 22 ♖xf6 gxf6 23 ♘xd5 ♔f8 24 ♗f5!! *(D)*.

Here all Kamsky's pieces are completely paralysed and he can do nothing to stop Anand advancing his king and pawns and suffocating the black position.

21	**♔b1**	**♘f6**
22	**♘xd5!**	**♘xg4**
23	**♖xf8+**	**♔xf8**
24	**♘c7**	



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Now the rook is trapped since 24...♖b8 allows 25 ♗a7.

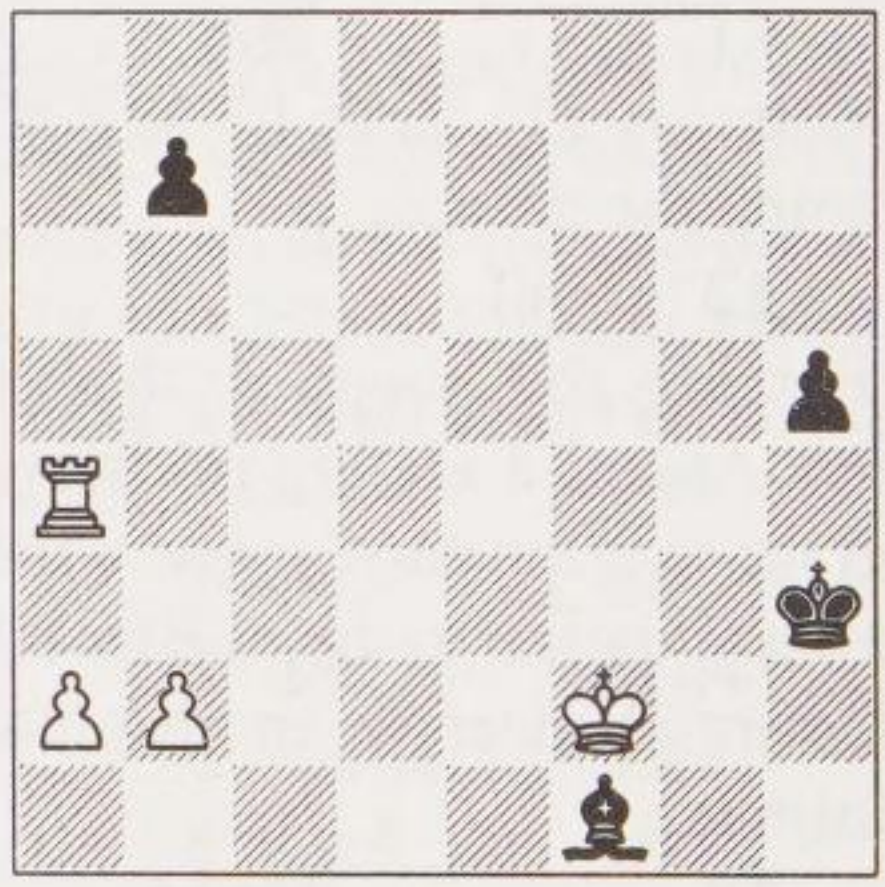
24	**...**	**♖a6**
25	**♗c5+**	**♔g8**
26	**♘xa6**	**♗xe6**

Anand has calculated accurately. Black can't avoid emerging an exchange down since if he captures the knight on a6 then the passed e-pawn will cost him a bishop: 26...bxa6 27 e7 ♔f7 28 ♖d8 ♗xe7 29 ♖xc8.

27 ♘c7

White is a clear exchange up and the rest is simple technique for the Indian.

27	**...**	**♗f5**
28	**h3**	**♘f6**
29	**g4**	**♗e4**
30	**♘e6**	**♗h4**
31	**g5**	**♘d5**
32	**♖f1**	**h6**
33	**gxh6**	**gxh6**
34	**♖f8+**	**♔h7**
35	**♗d6**	**♘b4**
36	**♗xe5**	**♗xc2+**
37	**♔c1**	**♗e4**
38	**♘f4**	**♘d3+**
39	**♘xd3**	**♗xd3**
40	**♖h8+**	**♔g6**
41	**♗f4**	**♗g5**
42	**♗xg5**	**♔xg5**
43	**♔d2**	**♗b5**
44	**♖a8**	**♗a6**
45	**♖c8**	**♔h4**
46	**♖c5**	**a4**
47	**♖a5**	**h5**
48	**♔e3**	**♗f1**
49	**♖xa4+**	**♔xh3**
50	**♔f2** *(D)*	



B

Kamsky resigned.

I had been following this game move by move on the Teletext screen. It seemed to have paused around move 42. I was so anxious to find out what had happened that I rushed upstairs to check my fax machine. The press release

was just coming through; all I saw was Anand 1 Kamsky 0. A few minutes later I spoke with Batsford Chess Editor, Graham Burgess; 'You'd better get on with that book, Dave.' 'Yeah, it's a bit of a shame that Vishy won actually. I've now got a lot of work to do.'

I had no idea that this comment might get back to the man himself. When I next spoke to Anand he was hard at work with his seconds in Spain. 'So how are things going, Vishy?' 'OK. Just make sure you support the other guy. I've more chance of winning if you don't want me to.'

12 'Only now does Kasparov seem real...'

In the taxi in New York, in an interview in *New In Chess*, and at the closing ceremony of the Las Palmas match, Anand had stated that his mind was not on Kasparov. Now I suspect he thinks of little else.

Anand as World Champion?

What are his chances? I asked some of the figures in the chess world.

'That would be nice, the first human as World Champion in twenty-three years.' *US Grandmaster Nick de Firmian*

'I would bet on Kasparov, *unfortunately*.' *Russian GM Peter Svidler*

'I'd like Vishy to win, but I don't think he will.' *US GM Joel Benjamin*

'I think Kasparov will win. Anand is just too unsteady, somehow unstable.' *Tournament Arbiter Carol Jarecki*

'Who's interested in my opinion? I'd make a 2-1 market on Kasparov.' *Bermuda's number 1 chess player and global trader Richard Farleigh*

By the time this book is published the match will almost be underway, so whatever I write will be overtaken by events. Nevertheless, in this chapter I will try to address the strengths and weaknesses of both players, and hazard a prediction on the result.

Kasparov is the clear favourite; this is beyond doubt. He has never lost a World Championship Match, indeed he has never lost a match. He is probably the greatest player of all time and the only person to achieve a rating above 2800 on both the FIDE and PCA rating lists. His tournament record is excellent, in the last decade he has taken clear first in all but a handful of tournaments.

Kasparov also has a powerful team of analysts who ensure that he is the best prepared player around. His team remains largely invisible; during the 1993 World Championship Match in London they were neither seen nor heard. In some ways it would detract

from the Champion's glory if his large team of helpers came into the public eye, but we know they are always there, working round the clock on whatever problem Kasparov sets them.

Just how much the Champion benefits from his team is hard to quantify. Kasparov once suggested that Karpov had an unfair advantage because so many grandmasters were helping him. During the last World Championship in 1991, Karpov turned that accusation around. He said that all he sought in the opening was to find a position that Kasparov's team had not already analysed. Salov recently levelled an even more damning accusation, that Kasparov would just be another player were it not for the formidable team behind him. This is clearly ridiculous; Kasparov is one of the most natural players of all time. Still the fact remains that many top players feel that Kasparov does possess an unfair advantage when it comes to preparation. Anand will not forget that he once lost a game to Kasparov in which the World Champion had not even left his opening preparation.

How will Kasparov approach the match? Without doubt, Gazza will be trying to make a strong impression with the white pieces. He is ambidextrous in that he plays both 1 e4 and 1 d4, so he is a monster to prepare for. My own guess is that Kasparov will rely largely on 1 e4, and will try to notch up the points with sharp, attacking chess. This will probably be the case in the earlier part of the match, while Anand is still finding his feet. In the past, Anand has not coped so well with Gazza's aggression.

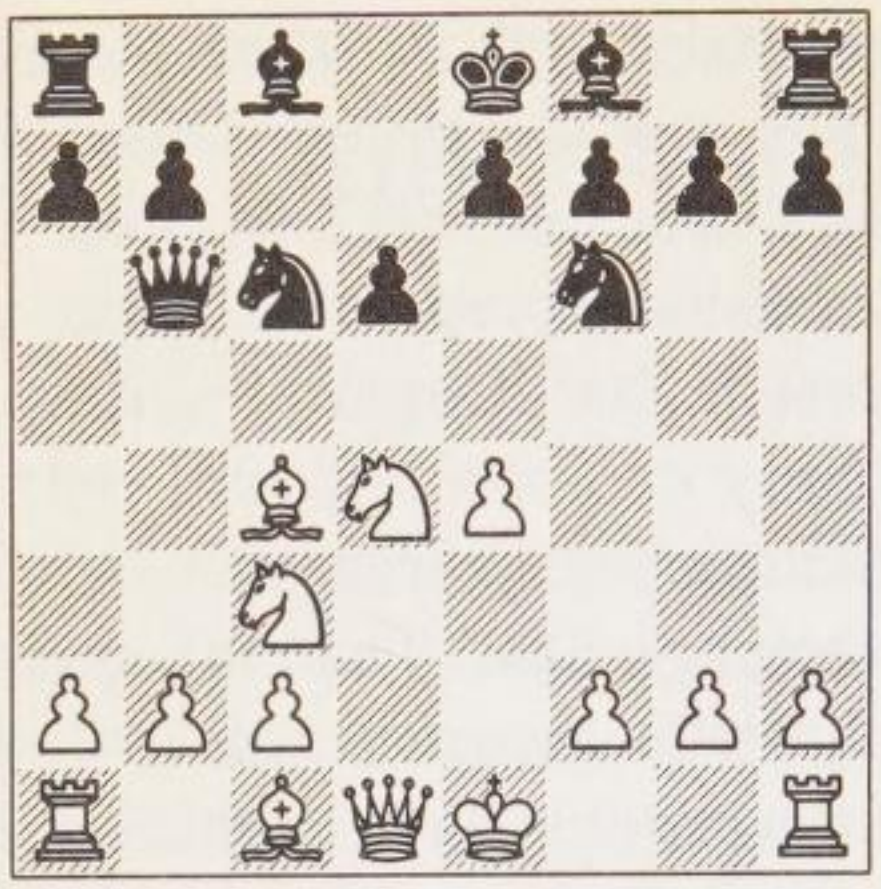
Kasparov-Anand
Linares 1994
Sicilian Sozin

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘c3**	**d6**
3	**♘ge2**	**♘c6**
4	**d4**	**cxd4**
5	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
6	**♗c4**	

The Richter-Rauzer, 6 ♗g5, has been very popular amongst the top players and Anand, along with other young stars such as Vladimir Kramnik, have considerable experience defending the black side of the resulting positions.

6 ... ♕b6 *(D)*

This is a relatively modern concept, which crops up in various Sicilian positions. The white knight on d4 is often one of his



W

most important attacking pieces, exerting control over the key e6 and f5 squares, so Black forces it to move away as quickly as possible (7 ♗e3 is answered by 7...♘g4). The one drawback with this plan is that the black queen is vulnerable on b6 and allows White to gain time with a subsequent ♗e3. However, Anand feels that the advantages of removing the white knight counterbalance this slight loss of time.

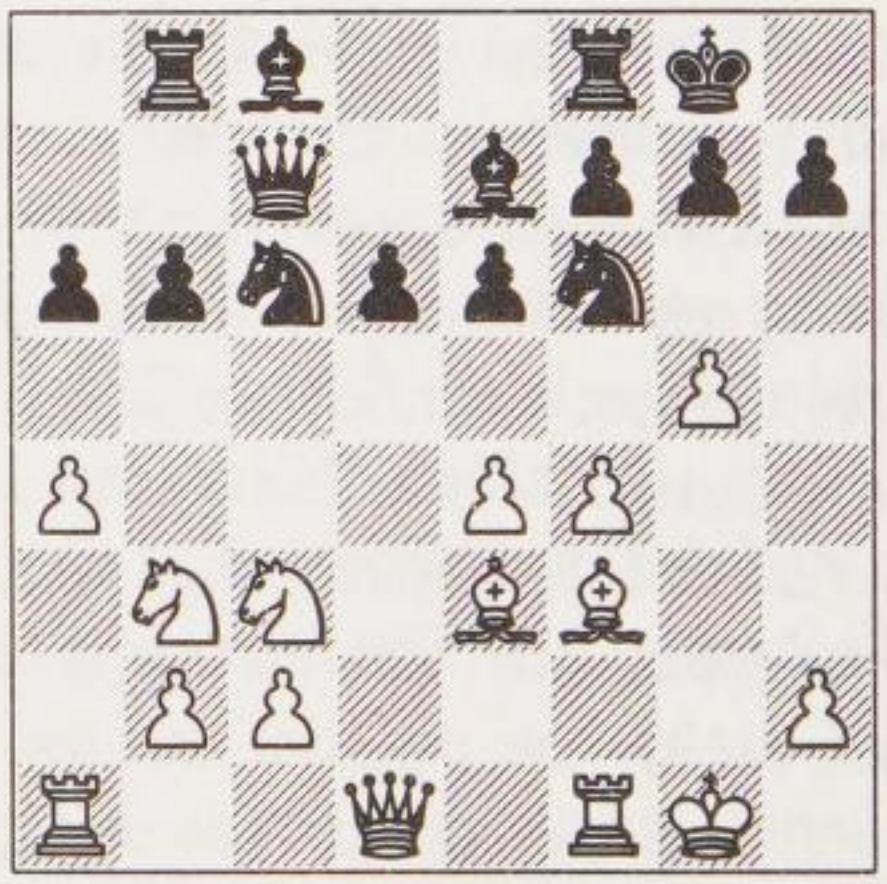
7 ♘b3

The alternative knight retreat is 7 ♘de2.

7	**...**	**e6**
8	**♗f4**	**♘e5**
9	**♗e2**	**♗e7**
10	**♗e3**	

At first sight it seems that Kasparov has wasted a move by putting his bishop on f4 before retreating it to e3, but by enticing Anand's knight to e5 he will gain time when he plays f4. It seems that these days the Sicilian is no longer simply a matter of developing your pieces before trying to mate your opponent, but involves complex nuances right from the beginning, increasing to mind-boggling levels the amount of theory top grandmasters need to know.

10	**...**	**♕c7**
11	**f4**	**♘c6**
12	**♗f3**	**a6**
13	**0-0**	**0-0**
14	**a4**	**b6**
15	**g4**	**♖b8**
16	**g5** *(D)*	

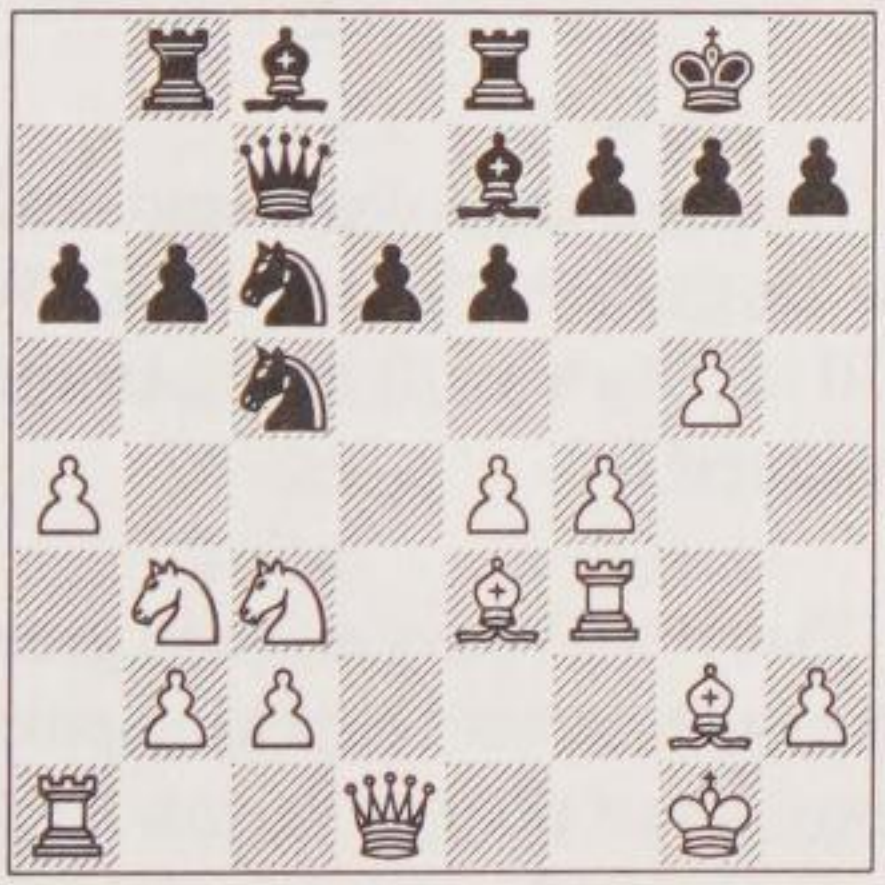


B

After the initial manoeuvring a typical Scheveningen type position has been reached in which both sides have made their intentions clear. Kasparov, with the g4-g5 thrust is going to try to steamroller the black king, while

Anand will defend on the kingside and create counterplay on the queenside. Ironically, it is Kasparov who is considered an expert on the black side of this type of position, having reached it many times against Karpov in their numerous World Championship Matches. Is it wise for Anand to take on Kasparov at his own game? Perhaps not, but the young Indian is not one to shirk a challenge.

16	**...**	**♘d7**
17	**♗g2**	**♖e8**
18	**♖f3**	**♘c5** *(D)*



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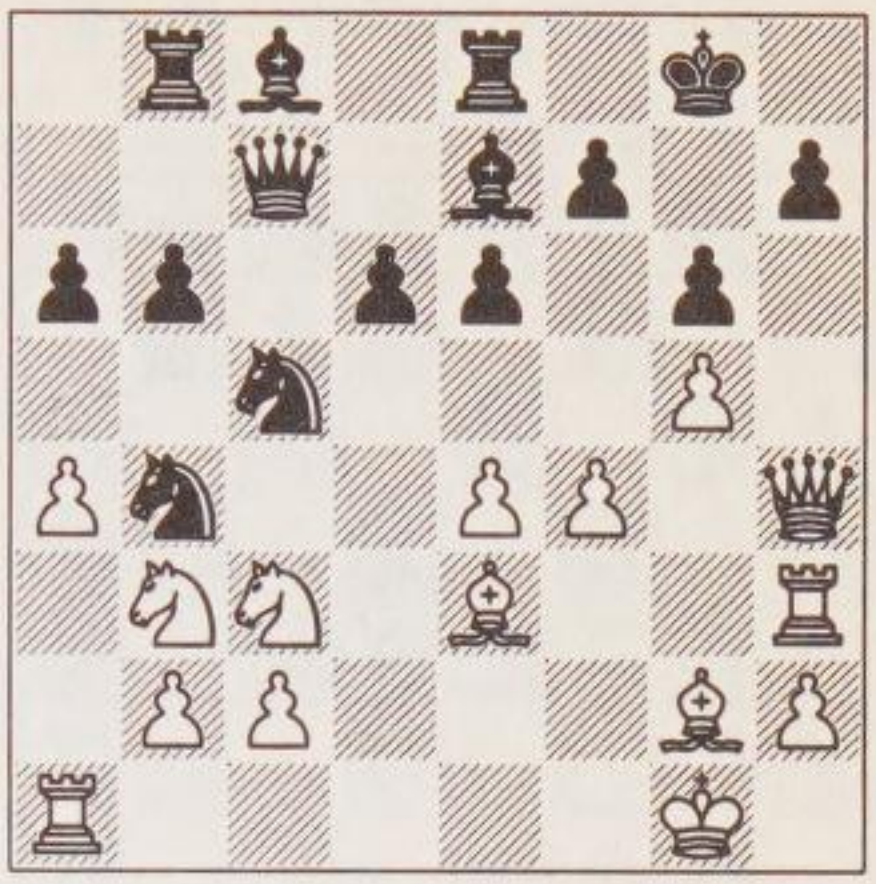
18...♘a5 was better, threatening 19...♘c4; then 19 ♘xa5 bxa5 gives play down the b-file.

19	**♖h3**	**g6**
20	**♕g4**	**♘b4**

20...e5 21 f5 ♘b4 22 ♕h4 h5 23 ♗f3 ♘xc2 24 ♘d5 ♕d8 25 ♗xh5 is crushing.

21 ♕h4 *(D)*



B

This is not one of Kasparov's more subtle manoeuvres, but the good old-fashioned doubling on the h-file provokes an important weakening of the black king.

21 ... h5

Another drawback of Black's 18th move is that the knight can no longer defend by dropping back to f8. Anand's 21...h5 seems to solve his immediate problems along the h-file, but Kasparov's reply destroys those illusions.

22 ♗f3!

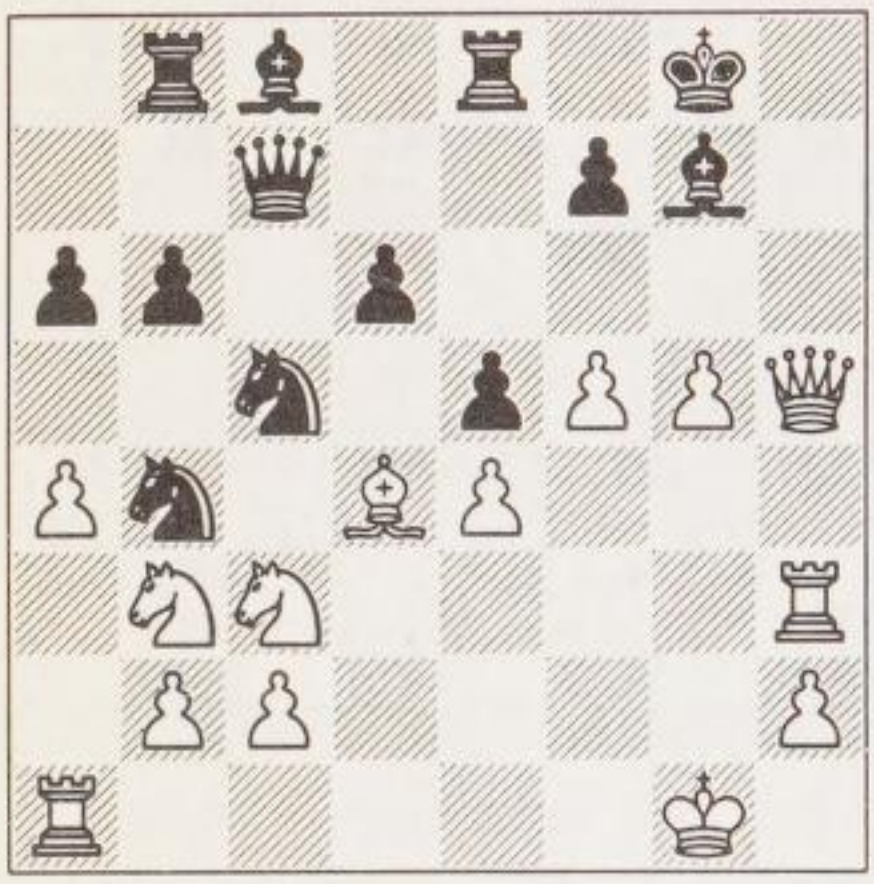
Threatening the murderous 23 ♗xh5.

22	**...**	**♗f8**
23	**♗xh5**	**gxh5**
24	**♕xh5**	**♗g7**
25	**♗d4**	**e5**

Black needs to keep his bishop on g7 to defend his king. After 25...♗xd4+, 26 ♘xd4 ♔f8 27 g6!

♗b7 28 ♕g5+ White has a winning position.

26 f5! *(D)*



B

Kasparov sacrifices a second piece, but his bishop on d4 is 'poisoned', and immune from capture. After 26...exd4 27 ♕h7+ ♔f8 28 f6! Black cannot prevent either 29 ♕xg7 mate or 29 ♕h8+ ♗xh8 30 ♖xh8 mate.

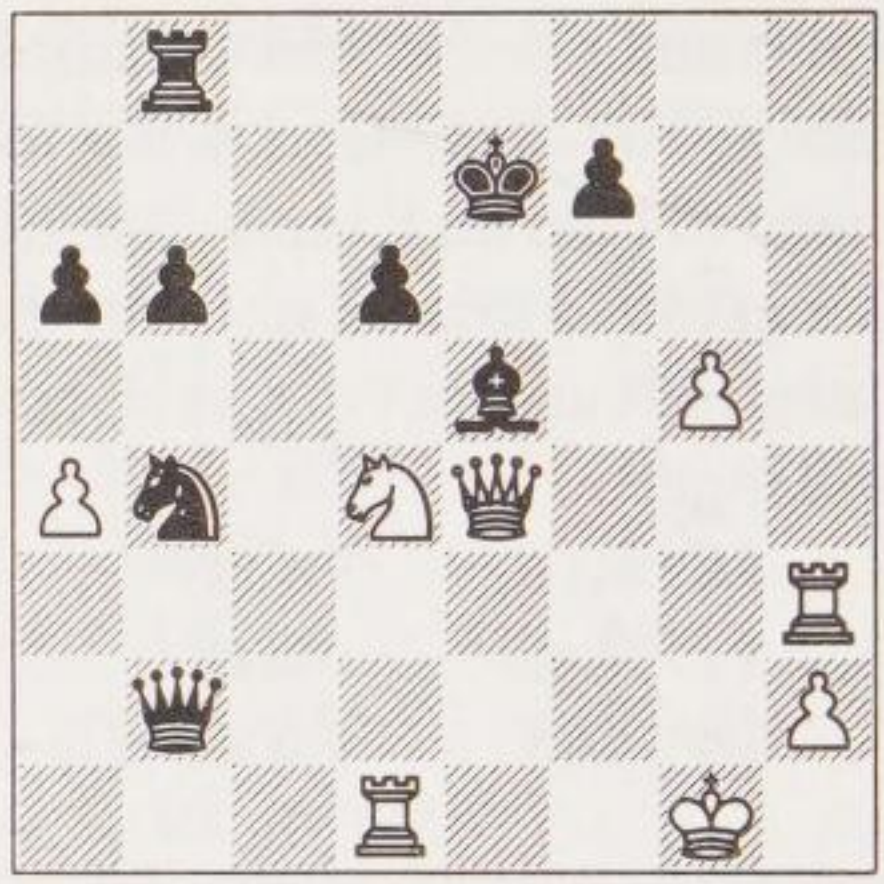
26 ... ♘xe4

Hoping for 27 ♘xe4? ♗xf5 covering h7.

27	**♕h7+**	**♔f8**
28	**♘xe4**	**♗xf5**
29	**♕xf5**	**exd4**
30	**♘f6!**	**♕xc2**
31	**♘xd4!**	**♕xb2**

Anand has defended tenaciously, but Kasparov has kept everything under control and still has a winning attack. Swapping queens would not help Anand, for example: 31...♕xf5 32 ♘xf5 ♖ed8 33 ♘h7+ ♔g8 34 ♘e7+ ♔h8 35 ♘f6+.

32	**♖d1**	**♖e5**
33	**♘d7+**	**♔e7**
34	**♘xe5**	**♗xe5**
35	**♕e4!** *(D)*	

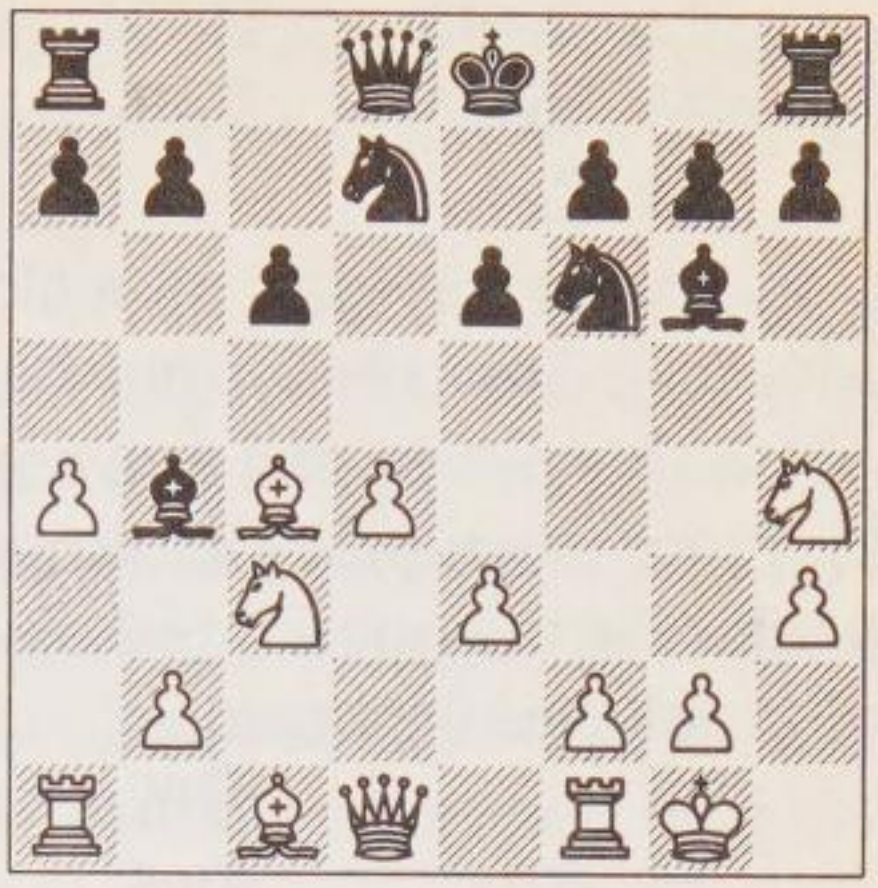


B

The exchange down and with his king still in the centre (♘f5+ will lead to a swift end), **Anand resigned**.

Vishy will have to take great care in these wild attacking positions. Even though he can trade tactics with anyone, I do not feel it is a good idea to do so with Kasparov. This is the kind of chess that Kasparov enjoys, what he really lives for. Much better to put the shutters up with Black, and play for sterile equality. I believe this is where Short went so badly wrong in his match with Kasparov. Like a true gentleman,

he took the bull by the horns; he really went for the Champ. The chess was dazzling, but Nigel lost by a big margin. The only game that Nigel won was one in which he seemed least inclined to go for the full point. Kasparov got bored, played a few sloppy moves, and suddenly Short found that beating the Great Man was not an impossible task after all.



B

Kasparov-Anand
Linares 1993
Slav

1	**d4**	**d5**
2	**c4**	**c6**
3	**♘f3**	**♘f6**
4	**♘c3**	**dxc4**
5	**a4**	**♗f5**
6	**e3**	**e6**
7	**♗xc4**	**♗b4**
8	**0-0**	**♘bd7**
9	**♘h4**	

Threatening 10 ♘xf5 exf5 11 ♗xf7+ ♔xf7 12 ♕b3+ winning a pawn. Against Short in their PCA World Championship match in 1993 Kasparov played 9 ♕e2 instead and eventually drew.

9	**...**	**♗g6**
10	**h3** *(D)*	

Kasparov waits until Anand has castled before taking the bishop on g6. After the immediate 10 ♘xg6 hxg6 the rook on h8 would give some attacking chances on the h-file.

10	**...**	**0-0**
11	**♘xg6**	**hxg6**

White has the two bishops and a pleasant position, but Anand has no real weaknesses, so is only very slightly worse.

12	**♕c2**	**♖c8**
13	**♖d1**	**♕b6**
14	**e4**	**c5**

With White expanding in the centre, giving his bishops more freedom, Anand tries to create some counterplay. 14...e5 was also possible, for example 14...e5 15 ♗e3 ♕a5 16 ♘e2 ♖fe8 with an unclear position.

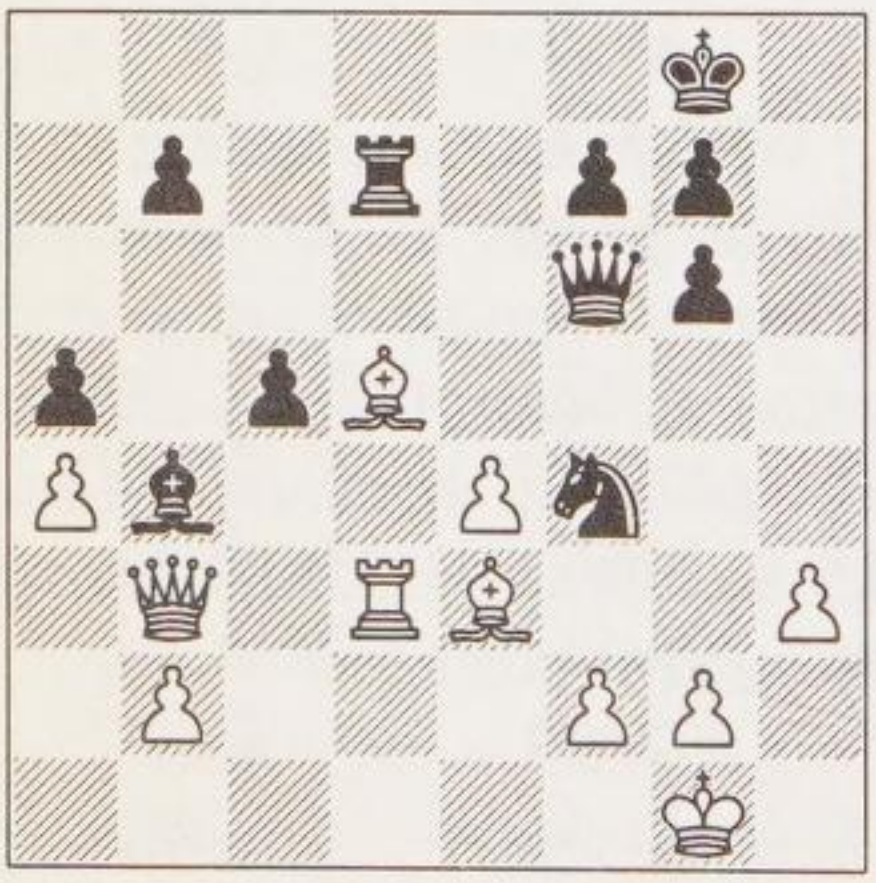
15	**d5**	**♘e5**
16	**♗e2**	**exd5**
17	**♘xd5**	**♘xd5**
18	**♖xd5**	**♘c6**
19	**♗c4**	**♘d4**
20	**♕d3**	**♖cd8**
21	**♗e3**	**♖xd5**

22 ♗xd5 ♖d8
23 ♕c4 ♖d7
24 ♖c1

Kasparov has built up a clear advantage based on his two bishops, active pieces, and dangerous kingside pawn majority. In particular the unopposed bishop on d5 dominates the board.

24 ... ♕f6
25 ♖d1 ♘e6
26 ♕b3! a5
27 ♖d3 ♘f4 *(D)*

This allows a strong reply, but if Anand had played a waiting move such as 27...♔f8 (removing his king from the a2-g8 diagonal), then 28 g3! would have almost paralysed the black position, leaving him with no counterplay at all.



W

28 e5!

This powerful thrust effectively decides the game. White expertly trades one advantage for another, giving up the two bishops and entering an opposite-coloured bishop endgame (notoriously drawish), but in return wins a pawn and more importantly severely weakens his opponent's king.

28 ... ♕f5

Anand cannot take the pawn since after 28...♕xe5, 29 ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 30 ♖d8+ ♔h7 31 ♕xf7 wins the exchange, and the game.

29 ♗xf4 ♕xf4
30 e6 ♖d8

After 30...♖e7 White simply plays 31 exf7+ ♔f8 32 ♗e6 with the decisive threat of 33 ♖d8+ (33...♕c7 34 ♕d5).

31 e7

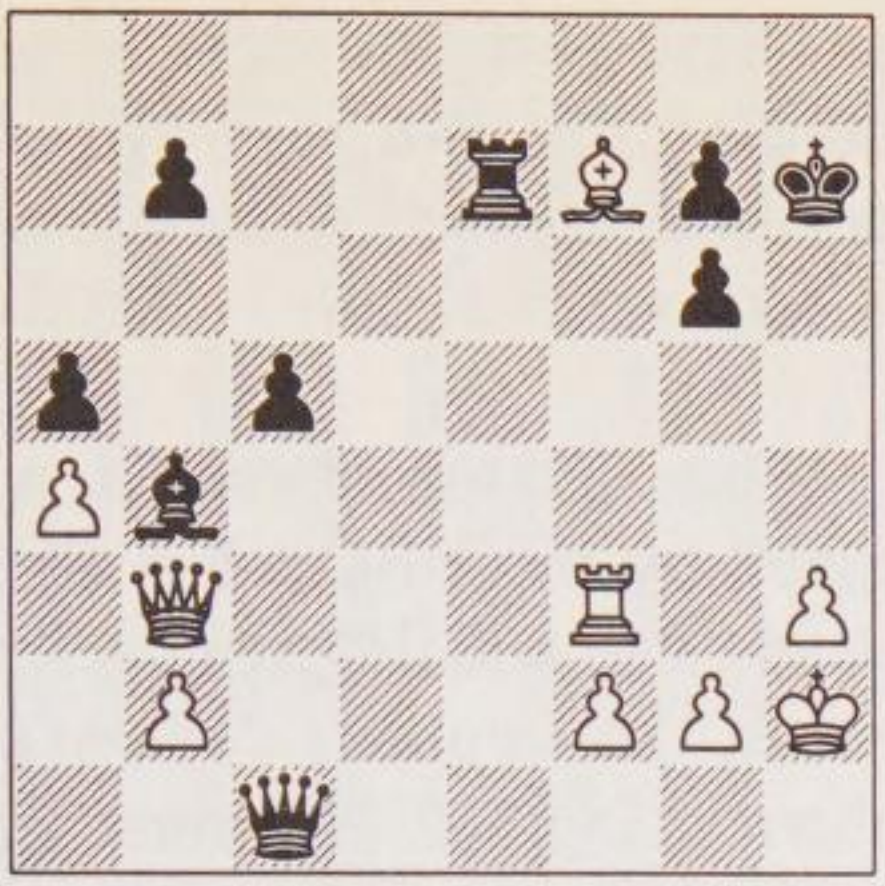
31 exf7+ ♔f8 32 g3 is also winning.

31 ... ♖e8
32 ♖f3 ♕c1+
33 ♔h2 ♖xe7
34 ♗xf7+ ♔h7 *(D)*
35 ♗xg6+! ♔h6

Anand can't take the bishop as after 35...♔xg6, 36 ♕d3+ ♔h6 37 ♕d6+ wins the rook on e7.

36 ♕d5

Usually a deficit of only one pawn in an opposite-coloured bishop endgame would not be decisive, but here Anand's weak king leaves him with little hope of saving the game.



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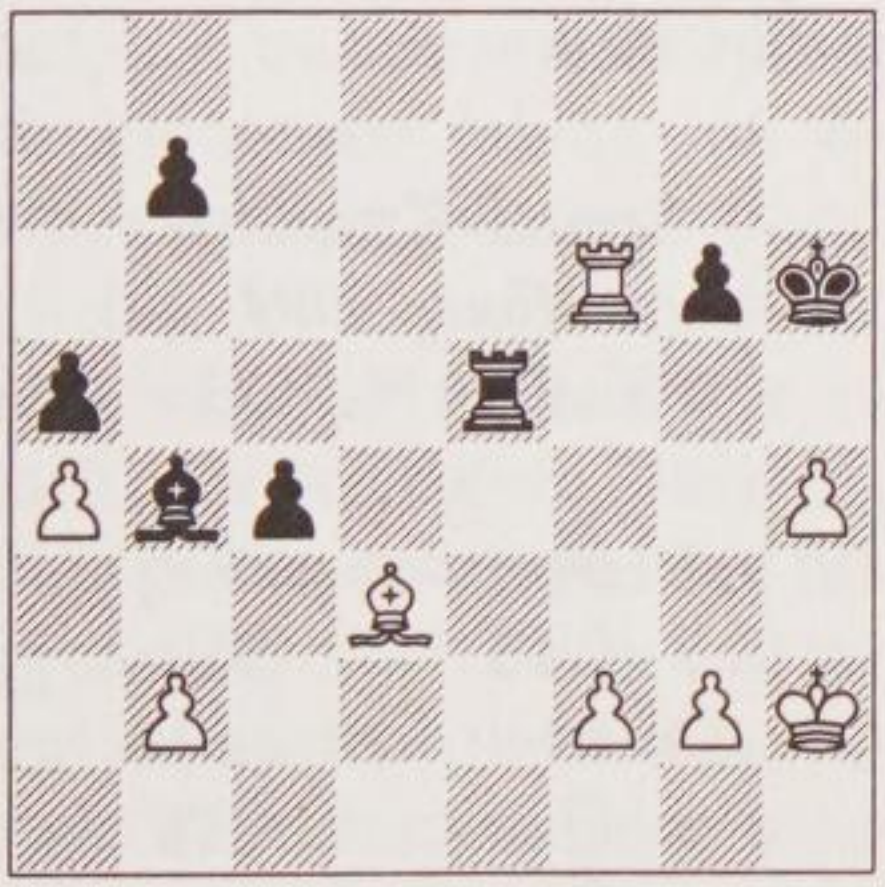
36	**...**	**♕g5**
37	**♗f5**	**g6**
38	**h4**	**♕f6**
39	**♗d3**	**♕e5+**
40	**♕xe5**	**♖xe5**
41	**♖f6**	**c4** *(D)*



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42 ♗xc4?

Simpler would have been 42 ♖xg6+ when Black has two replies:

a) 42...♔h7 43 ♗b1! (not 43 ♖e6+?? cxd3 44 ♖xe5 ♗d6! when it is suddenly Anand who is winning) 43...♖e1 44 ♗f5 winning.

b) 42...♔h5 43 ♔h3 cxd3 44 ♖f6 trapping the black king in a mating net (threatening 45 g4 mate), and forcing Black to give up his rook to stop it: 44... ♖e4 45 g4+ ♖xg4 46 ♖f5+ ♔g6 47 ♔xg4 d2 48 ♖d5 with a winning ending.

42	**...**	**♗e7**
43	**♖b6**	**♗c5**
44	**♖f6**	**♖e4**
45	**♗d3**	

45 ♖xg6+ ♔xg6 46 ♗d3 pinning the rook was tempting, but then 46...♗xf2 47 ♗xe4+ ♔f6! 48 g3 ♔e5 49 ♗c2 ♗e1 when the position is surprisingly difficult to win.

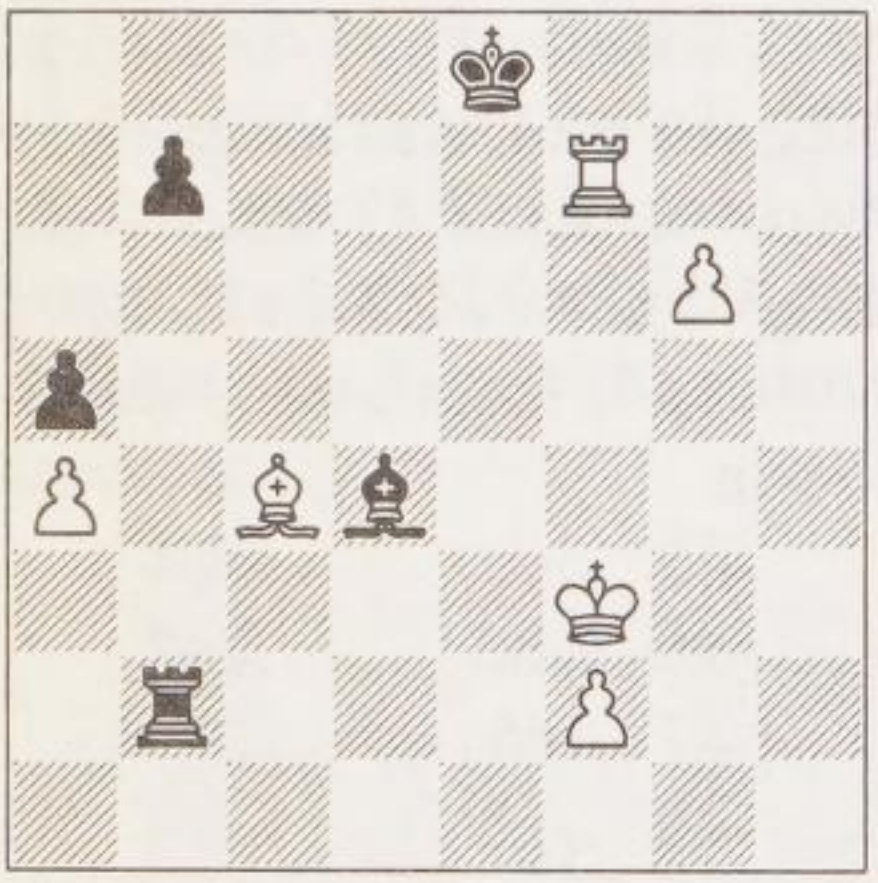
45	**...**	**♖g4**
46	**♔h3**	**♗e7**
47	**♖e6**	**♖xh4+**
48	**♔g3**	**♖d4**
49	**♖xg6+**	**♔h5**
50	**♗f5**	

With two connected passed pawns extra, it is now simply a matter of technique for the World Champion.

50	**...**	**♗d6+**
51	**♔f3**	**♗c5**
52	**g4+**	**♔h4**
53	**♖h6+**	**♔g5**
54	**♖g6+**	**♔h4**
55	**♗e4**	**♖d6**

56	**♖g7**	**♖f6+**
57	**♗f5**	**♖b6**
58	**♖h7+**	**♔g5**
59	**♖h5+**	**♔f6**
60	**♗d3**	**♗d4**
61	**g5+**	**♔g7**
62	**♖h7+**	**♔f8**
63	**♗c4**	**♖xb2**
64	**♖f7+**	**♔e8**
65	**g6** *(D)*	

White threatens 66 g7, and after 65...♖xf2+ 66 ♔e4 ♗c5 67 ♖xf2 ♗xf2 68 g7 the g-pawn queens, so **Anand resigned**.



B

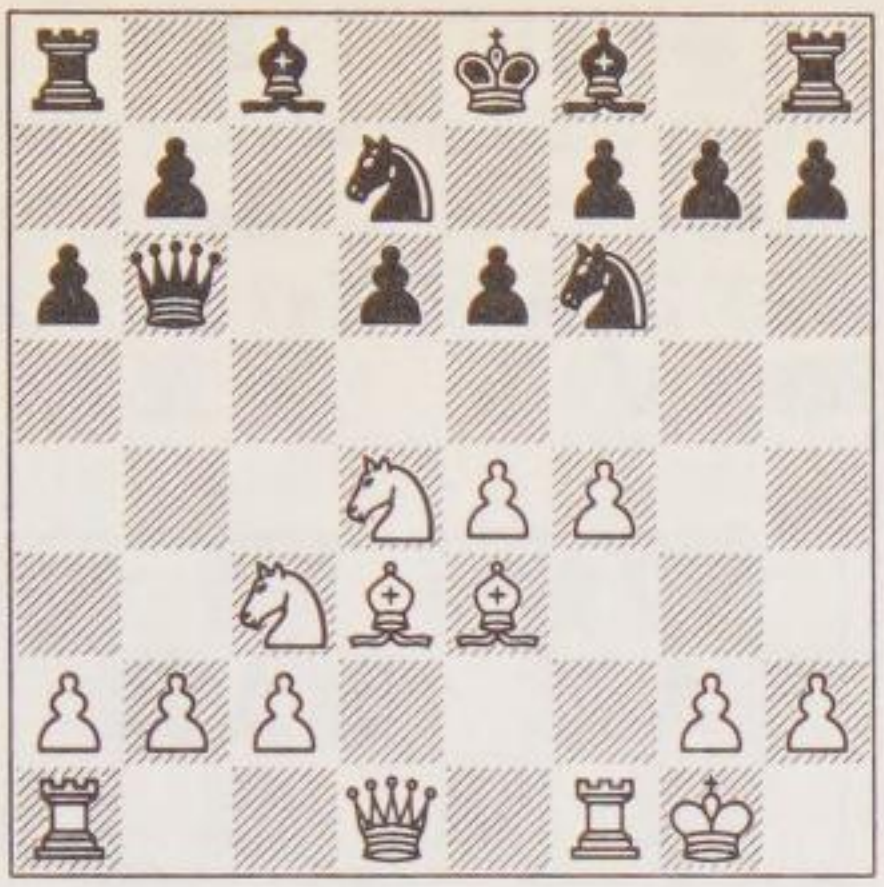
Both players have fantastic technique but Kasparov still has the edge, especially in endgames. Nevertheless, I think that Vishy has a better chance trying to hold slightly worse positions with Black, rather than trying to mix things. This is a part of his game that he must have been working on these past few months: just holding his own in a difficult position against someone like Kasparov.

When Viktor Korchnoi was asked by the BBC when Short would start winning against Kasparov, he replied; 'Why ask about winning? He must first learn to make a draw.' He explained that it took Kasparov a long time before he could hold his own against Karpov. Only then, when he was able to make draw after draw, could he start thinking about playing for the full point. Korchnoi has a very deep insight into World Championship chess.

Anand-Kasparov
Tilburg 1991
Sicilian Najdorf

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**d6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
5	**♘c3**	**a6**
6	**f4**	**e6**
7	**♗d3**	**♘bd7**
8	**0-0**	**♕b6**
9	**♗e3** *(D)*	
9	**...**	**♕xb2**

Kasparov is an expert on the so-called 'Poisoned Pawn' line of



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the Sicilian Najdorf, in which the black queen also grabs the b-pawn. The main difference here is that the white bishop is developed on e3 (instead of g5 as in the Poisoned Pawn Variation, but the ideas are very much the same. Black has wasted valuable time with his queen taking the b-pawn, enabling White to build up a big lead in development. White will try to use this to launch an attack before Black can get his pieces developed and his king castled, while Black will attempt to weather the storm and emerge with an extra pawn in an endgame.

This sort of strategy is necessarily double-edged, and suits the dynamic styles of both men.

10 ♘db5!

Anand must react sharply, since after the routine 10 ♕d2, 10...♘g4 exchanges White's important dark-squared bishop, leaving the black queen much safer since it can use the a7-g1 diagonal.

10 ... axb5
11 ♘xb5 ♖a5!

This is the first new move, with 11...♕b4, 11...♖b8, and 11...♔d8 all turning out good for White in previous games.

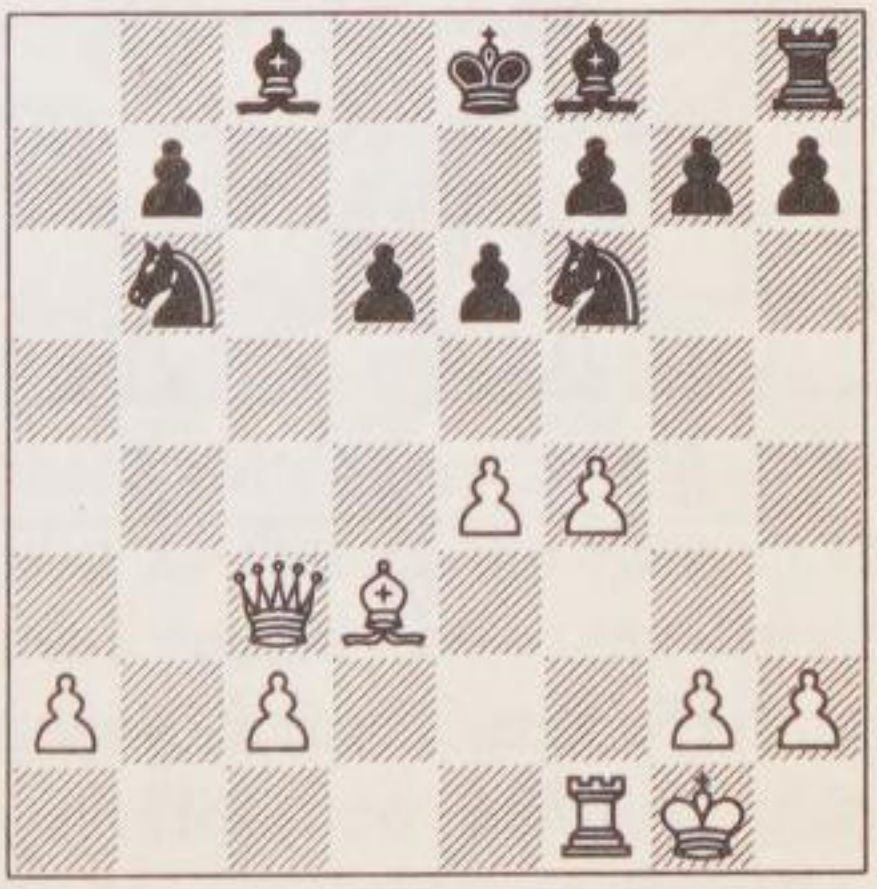
12 ♖b1 ♖xb5

Giving up the queen in this way is forced as after 12...♕xa2, 13 ♘c3 ♕a3 14 ♖b3 wins the queen for only a rook, leaving White with a winning advantage.

13 ♖xb2 ♖xb2
14 ♕a1 ♖b6

Kasparov is forced to part with the exchange since 14...♖b4 allows 15 ♕c3 forking the rook and bishop on c8.

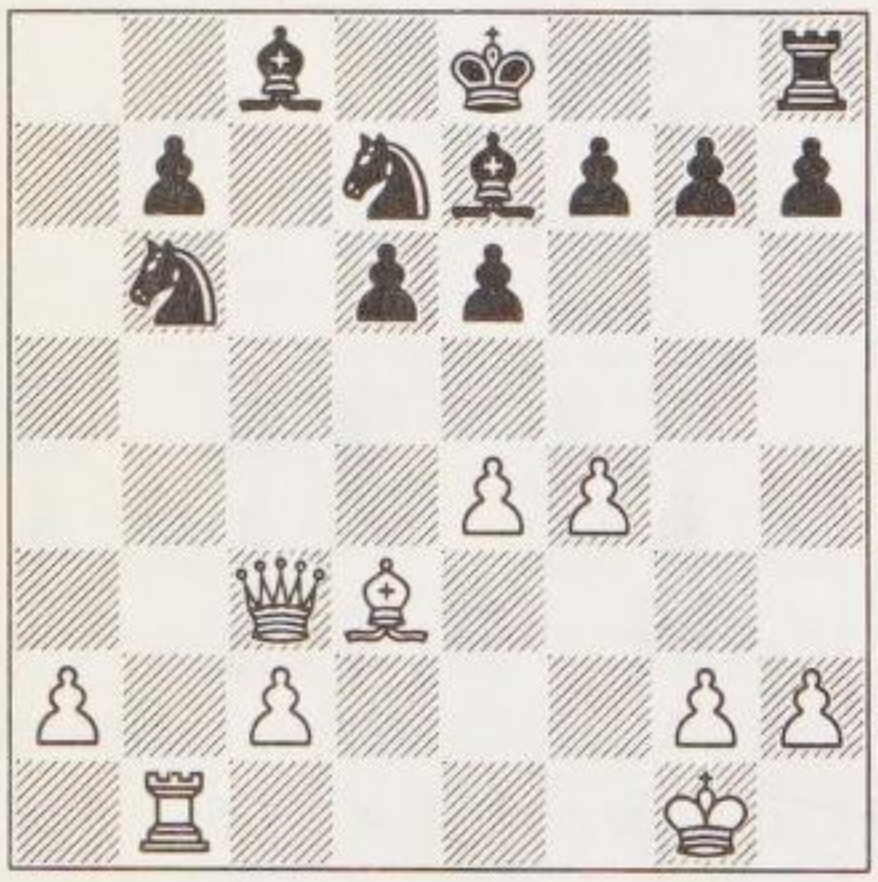
15 ♗xb6 ♘xb6
16 ♕c3! *(D)*



B

An unusual and intriguing position has arisen, with Anand having a queen against the World Champion's bishop and two knights. Theoretically this is an even balance, but here the outcome will depend on whether Kasparov can co-ordinate his pieces quickly enough. Ideally he would like his redeploy his b6 knight to c5 and then play ...♗e7, ...0-0, ...♗d7 and ...♗c6 with a virtually impregnable position. However, this all takes time and meanwhile Anand uses his queen to cause maximum disruption to the co-ordination of his opponent's pieces.

16 ... ♗e7
17 ♖b1 ♘fd7! *(D)*



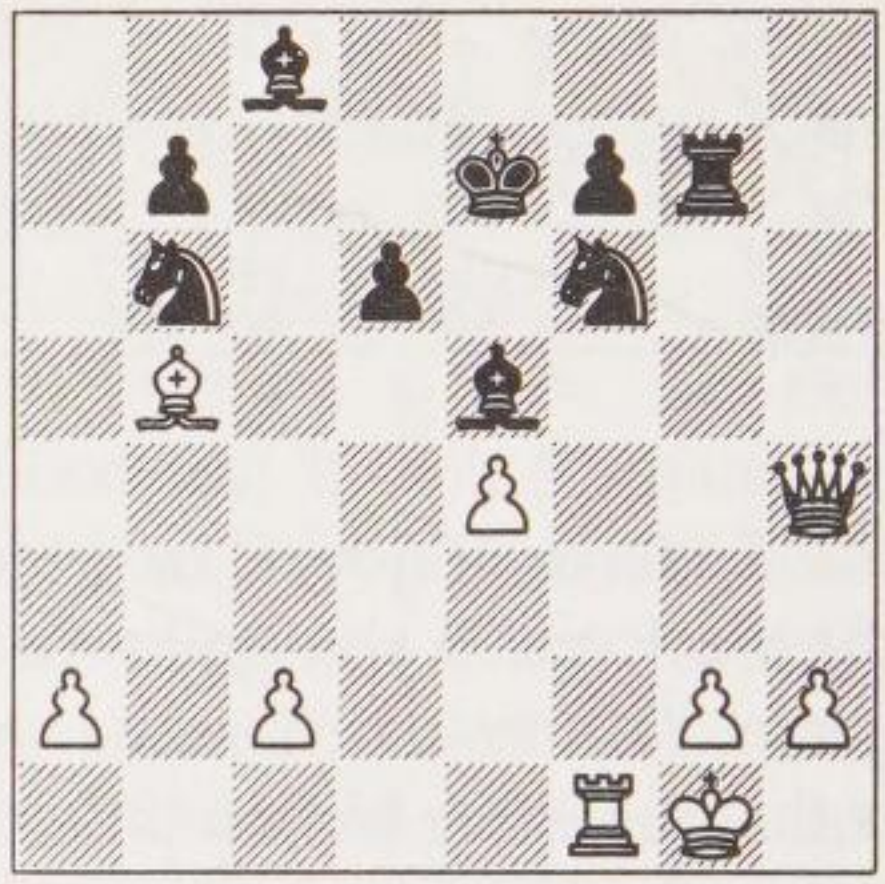
W

18 ♕xg7 ♗f6
19 ♕h6 ♔e7

By offering his g-pawn, Kasparov has activated his pieces.

20 ♗b5 ♖g8

More accurate was the immediate 20...e5! 21 ♖f1 ♖g8 22 fxe5 ♗xe5 23 ♕xh7 ♖g7 24 ♕h4+ ♘f6 *(D)*.

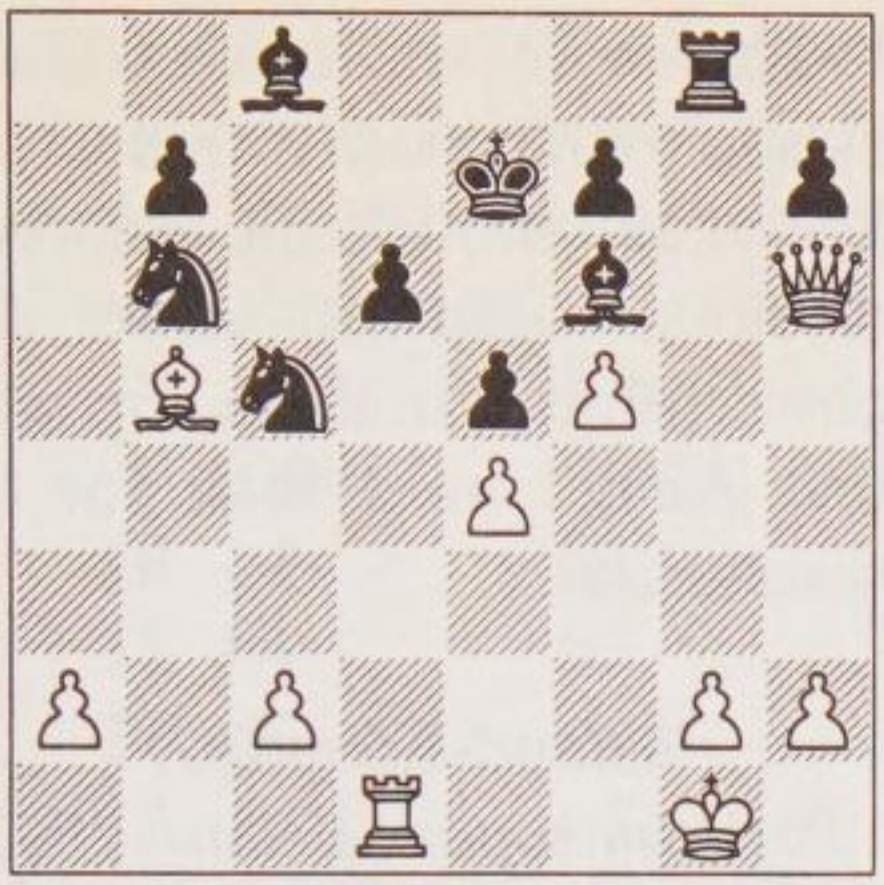


W

This position illustrates precisely the point made earlier about the importance of co-ordination amongst the black pieces. Black has sacrificed two pawns but stands much better since his pieces, especially the fantastic bishop on e5, are all active and working well together. The white pieces, however, have no active plan and the weak a-, c-, and e-pawns will soon fall.

21 ♖d1! e5
22 f5 ♘c5? *(D)*

Kasparov understandably attempts to activate his knight but he has obviously missed Anand's reply, which blows his defences apart. 22...♖d8 was a better try,



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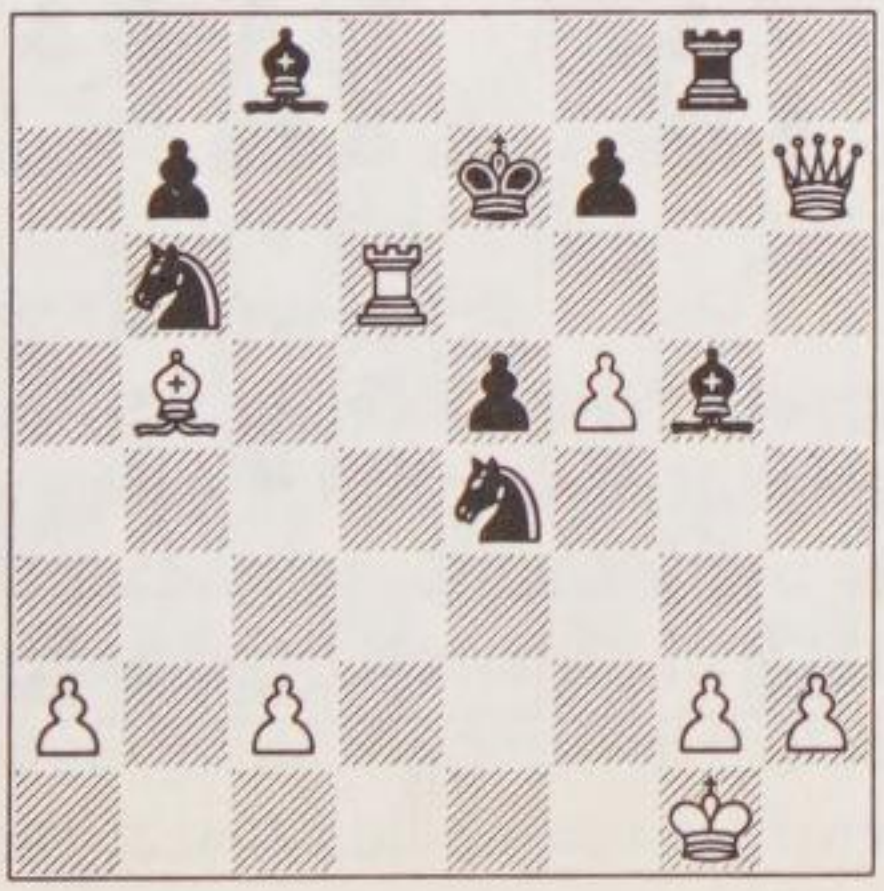
covering the vulnerable pawn on d6.

23 ♖xd6 ♗g5

23...♔xd6 allows 24 ♕xf6+ ♔c7 25 ♕xf7+ picking up the rook on g8. Kasparov tries to mix it up, but the young Indian smells blood, and finishes off the World Champion ruthlessly.

24 ♕xh7 ♘xe4 *(D)*



W

25 ♖xb6 ♖d8
26 ♗d3 ♗e3+
27 ♔f1 ♗xb6
28 ♗xe4 ♖d4
29 c3

29...♖xe4 fails to 30 f6+ winning the rook, so, faced with a fatal material deficit, **Kasparov resigned**.

This was a great victory for Anand. It proved to him at an early stage in his career something that he needs to remember throughout the match: Kasparov is not invincible.

Kasparov is not invincible. For months prior to the London match, Short and his trainer, Lubosh Kavalek, kept telling themselves the same thing. A year before, an expert like Ray Keene put Nigel's chances at less than 1%. Just before the match observers were claiming quite seriously that Short had a 20-30% chance of winning. Six games into the match such optimism looked ridiculous. If Kasparov was not invincible, he was doing a bloody good impression.

What are Kasparov's weaknesses? My guess is probably as good as that of the man in the street, and no worse than that of a super-grandmaster. Well, if anyone really knew then he wouldn't be so untouchable, would he? Let us make a few observations:

a) With the exception of Nigel Short, Kasparov's only serious match partner in the last ten years has been Karpov.

b) Short's progress to the Championship Final was a titanic sporting achievement, but he was not World Champion material. In terms of rating, Anand is better now than Short has ever been. Short was not a testing opponent for Kasparov, whose last close match was five years ago.

c) Kasparov has been World Champion for a very long time. He has to lose sometime and in recent years he has been distracted from chess by other interests such as business and politics. The Champion's lacklustre performance in the Moscow Olympiad has been attributed to his extra-curricular activities.

d) As well as a proneness to boredom, Garry Kasparov has a tendency to underestimate opponents. Short might have capitalised on this more. Still, Kasparov has a great deal of respect for Anand so I doubt that he will take things too casually.

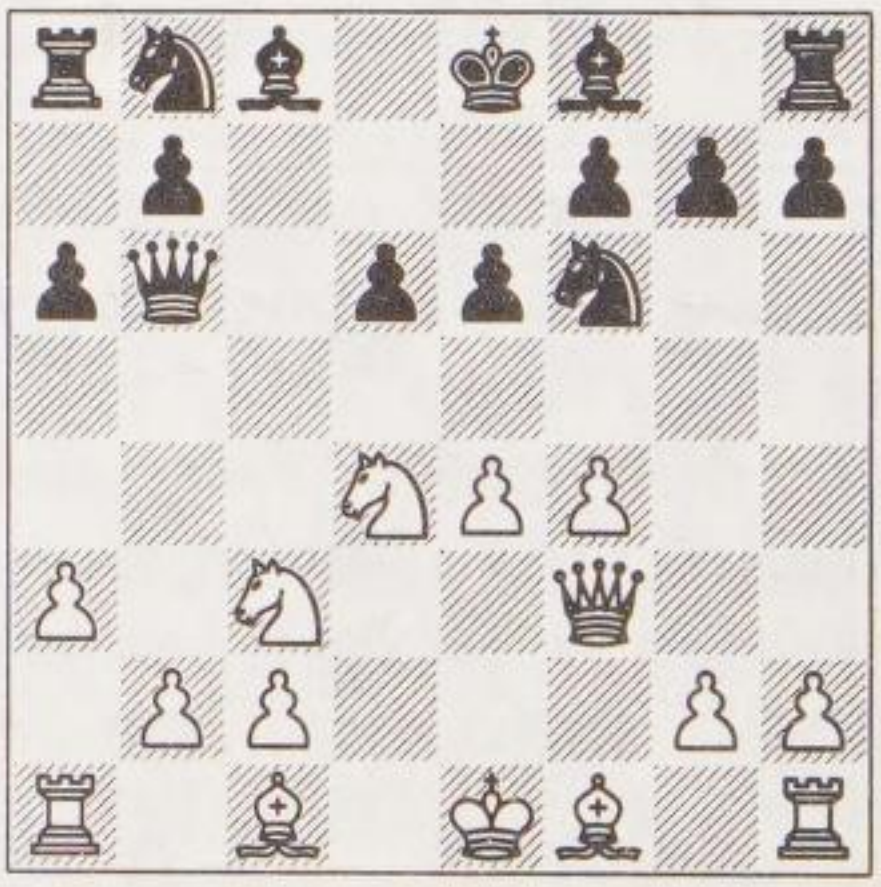
e) Kasparov is a fast player. In their last World Championship match In New York/Lyon, Karpov was hampered by time pressure. Gazza will not have this advantage over Vishy.

The more we look at Garry Kasparov, the more we see an image of an untouchable emperor: ruthless, confident, secure and powerful. It is in these strengths that Anand must look for the weaknesses.

Anand-Kasparov
Paris Immopar (25 min) 1992
Sicilian Najdorf

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**d6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**♘f6**
5	**♘c3**	**a6**
6	**f4**	**e6**
7	**♕f3**	**♕b6**

8 a3 *(D)*



B

This strange-looking move has also been used with success by England's World Championship Candidate Mickey Adams. The

point is that now if Black grabs the knight with 8...♕xd4?? then, with the b4-square covered, 9 ♗e3 traps the queen.

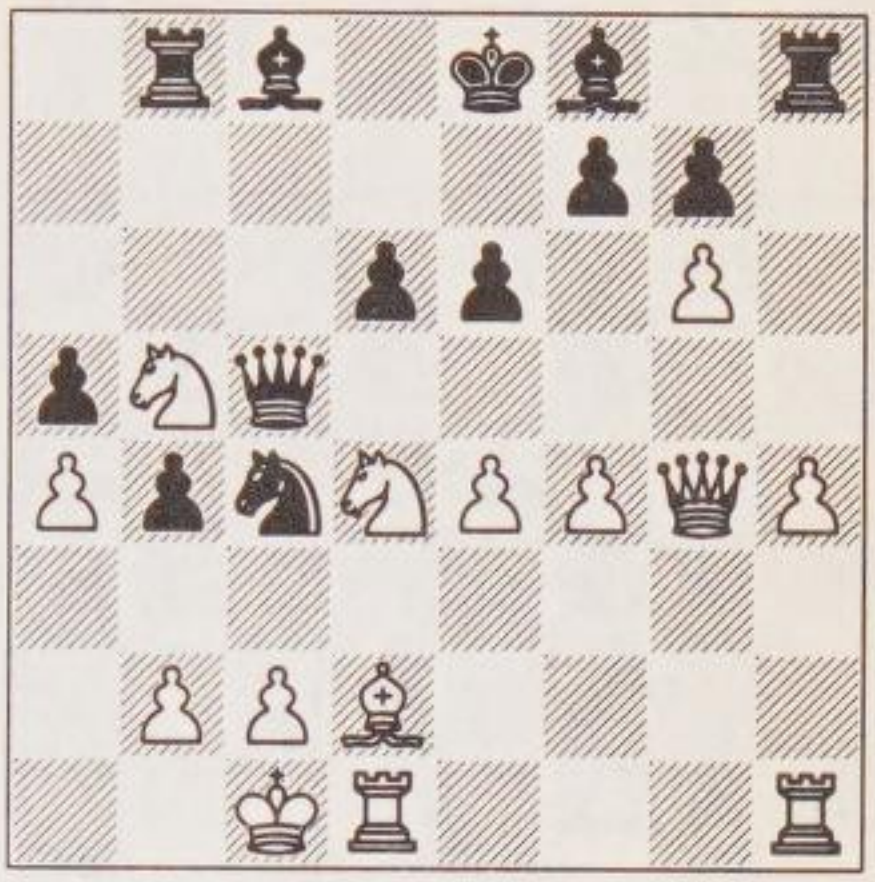
8	**...**	**♘bd7**
9	**♘b3**	**♕c7**
10	**g4**	**h6**
11	**h4**	**h5**
12	**g5**	**♘g4**
13	**♗d2**	**b5**
14	**♗h3!**	

This is a new move, simply aiming to win a pawn by taking twice on g4. Adams-Smirin, Tilburg 1992 went 14 0-0-0 ♗b7 15 ♔b1 ♖c8 16 ♗e2 g6 17 ♖he1 ♗g7 18 ♕g3 ♘b6 19 ♗xg4 hxg4 20 f5 ♗e5 21 ♕xg4 ♕e7 22 ♘a5 ♗a8 23 fxg6 fxg6 24 ♗f4 ♖xc3 25 bxc3 ♘a4 26 ♗xe5 and Adams won with his material advantage.

14	**...**	**♘b6**
15	**0-0-0**	**♘c4**
16	**♗xg4**	**hxg4**
17	**♕xg4**	**♖b8**
18	**g6**	**a5**
19	**♘d4!**	

Anand has effortlessly built up a winning position, with an extra pawn, more space and a lead in development. However, in a 25-minute game the position on the board is only half the story; Vishy now needs to keep his cool and avoid blunders with his time running out – not such an easy task against Kasparov.

19	**...**	**b4**
20	**♘cb5**	**♕c5**
21	**a4!** *(D)*	



B

Keeping the queenside pawns blocked to reduce Black's attacking chances.

21	**...**	**e5**
22	**♘f5**	**f6**

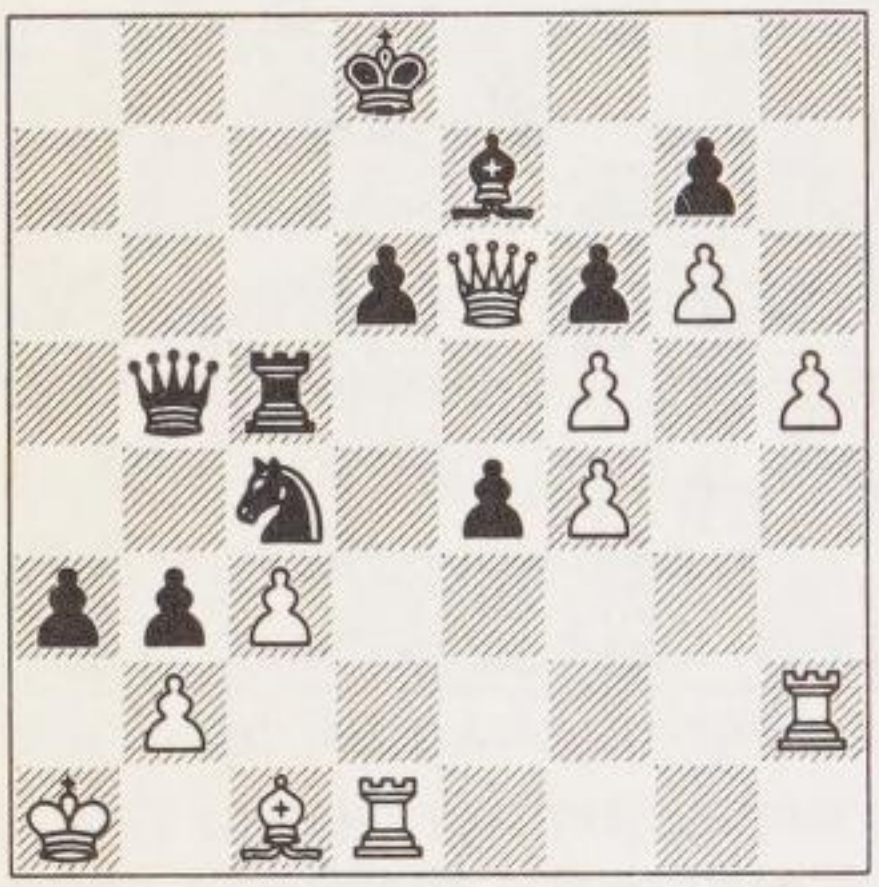
Kasparov should have rolled the dice with 22...♖xb5 23 axb5 ♘a3 24 c3 (24 bxa3? b3 wins for Black) 24...♘xb5 with chances due to the chaotic nature of the position.

23	**♕e2**	**♗xf5**
24	**exf5**	**♖xb5!**

The only chance – objectively unsound perhaps, but tricky to meet over-the-board.

25	**axb5**	**a4**
26	**♔b1**	**♕xb5**
27	**♕d3**	**b3**
28	**♔a1**	**♗e7**
29	**♗c1**	**♔d7**

30	**♖h2**	**♖c8**
31	**h5**	**e4**
32	**♕d5**	**♖c5**
33	**♕e6+**	**♔d8**
34	**c3**	**a3** *(D)*



W

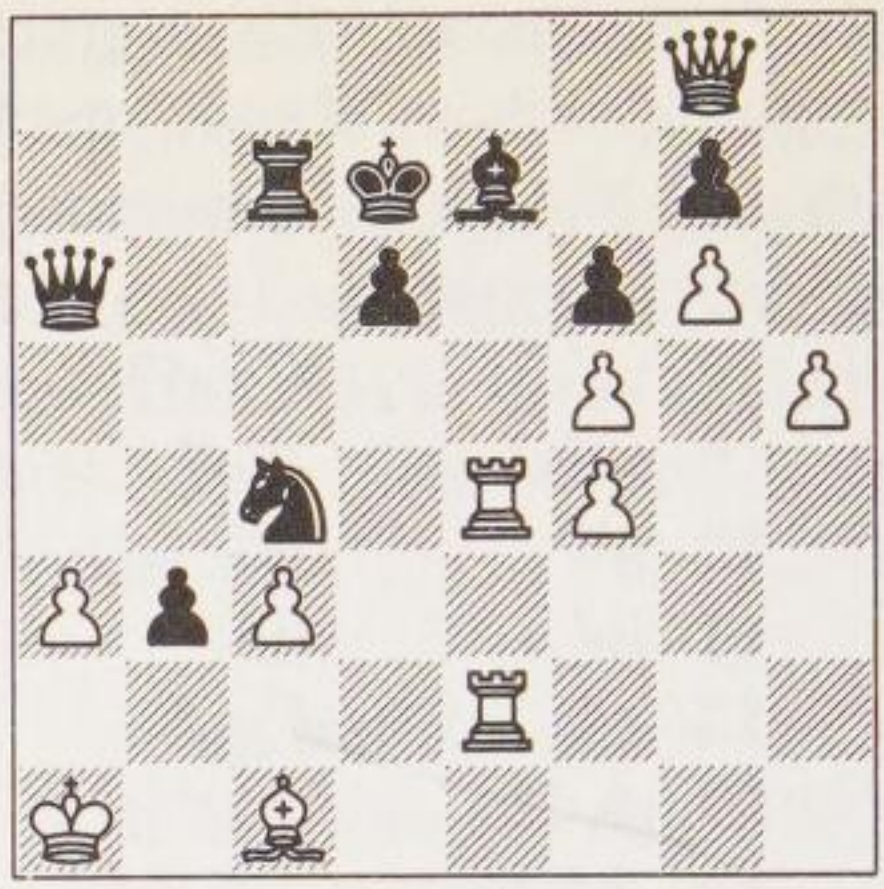
Garry, true to form, has built up a dangerous-looking counter-attack but Anand defends coolly with time running out.

35	**bxa3**	**♕a4?**

The immediate 35...♕a6 was better but after 36 ♔b1! ♘xa3+ 37 ♗xa3 ♕xa3 38 ♖b2! ♖xc3 39 h6 White still seems to be winning.

36	**♖d4**	**♕a6**
37	**♖xe4**	**♖c7**
38	**♕g8+**	**♔d7**
39	**♖he2** *(D)*	

Kasparov's attack has come to a halt, and now Anand's rooks force the win. If the bishop moves then 40 ♕e8 is mate, so **Kasparov resigned**.



B

What can Anand bring to the fight, that others before him were lacking?

a) Talent. Sheer, raw potential; this Vishy has in abundance. Nobody can say that a player like Anand has peaked, because his talent is so hard to quantify. There is also much to play around with in his style. For instance, would he play better or worse if he slowed down a lot? I'm not sure that even Vishy knows the answer.

b) Speed. Over the course of the match, this could rattle Kasparov, who is used to opponents pondering long over their moves. If Anand can control his nerves and play with his usual flow, this could pressurise the Champion. There is always a trade-off between playing very quickly and being careful to avoid mistakes.

With Black he will need to take his time. But if he can get an initiative with White, then blitzing the Champ might not be a bad policy.

c) The Moment. Just about everyone I have spoken to wants Vishy to win. This can be an unpredictable factor; in India it worked against him, but on this occasion I think it will inspire him to greater efforts.

Kasparov-Anand
Dortmund 1992
Slav

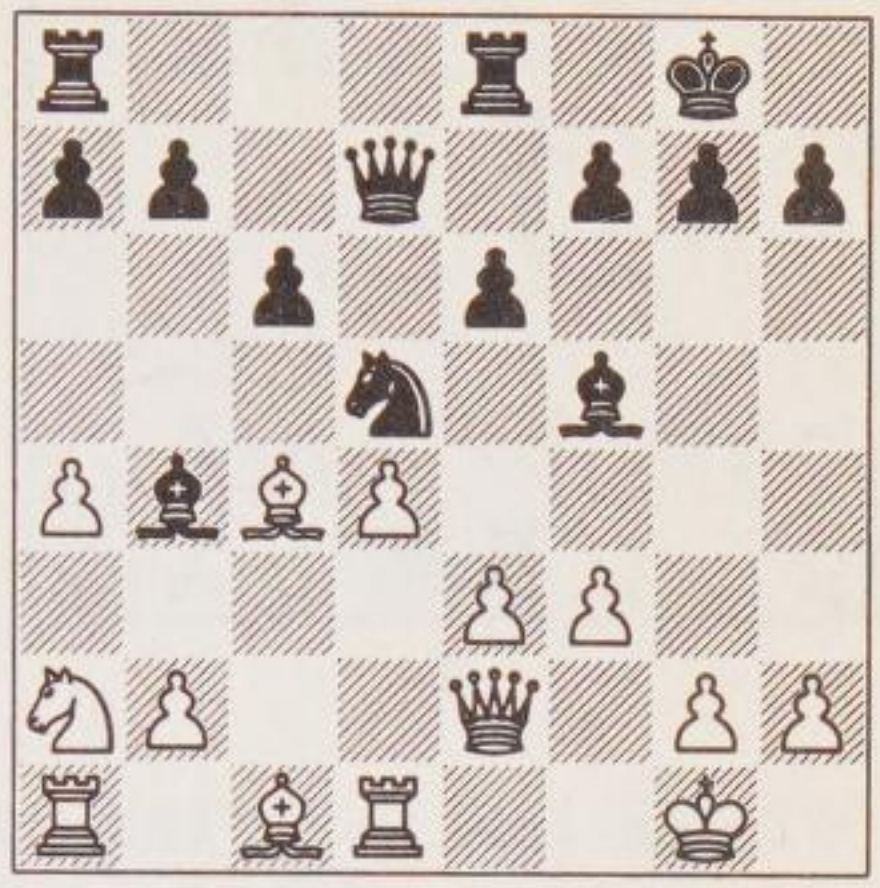
1	**d4**	**d5**
2	**c4**	**c6**
3	**♘f3**	**♘f6**
4	**♘c3**	**dxc4**
5	**a4**	**♗f5**
6	**e3**	**e6**
7	**♗xc4**	**♗b4**
8	**0-0**	**0-0**

In Linares the following year Anand varied with 8...♘bd7, when Kasparov went on to win a smooth positional game after 9 ♘h4, gaining the advantage of the two bishops.

9	**♕e2**	**♘bd7**
10	**♘e5**	**♖e8**

A new move where previously 10...h6 had been played.

11	**♖d1**	**♕c7**
12	**♘xd7**	**♕xd7**
13	**f3**	**♘d5**
14	**♘a2** *(D)*	



B

14 ... ♗f8?!

Kasparov later suggested the improvement 14...♗d6, keeping the bishop active.

At first sight Kasparov's next move appears to wins a piece, but Anand has prepared a neat reply.

15 e4 ♗g6!

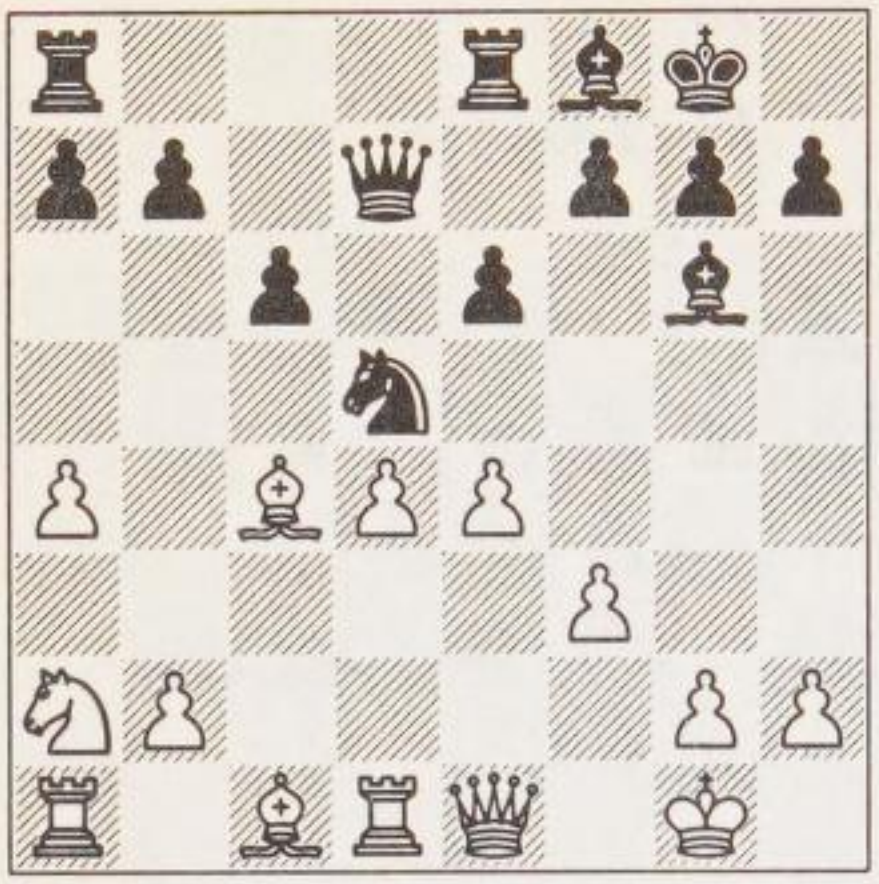
The point is that capturing the knight with 16 exd5 allows the reply 16...exd5 attacking both the queen on e2 and the bishop on c4, winning back the piece.

16 ♕e1 *(D)*

Kasparov has built up an impressive centre, but Anand was banking on his next move to undermine the e4-pawn and create some counterplay. Unfortunately there is a big hole in his analysis.

16 ... f5??

17 exd5



B

White's 16th move vacated the e2-square, so after 17...exd5 18 ♗e2! Kasparov retains his extra piece. A shocked Anand was therefore forced to **resign**.

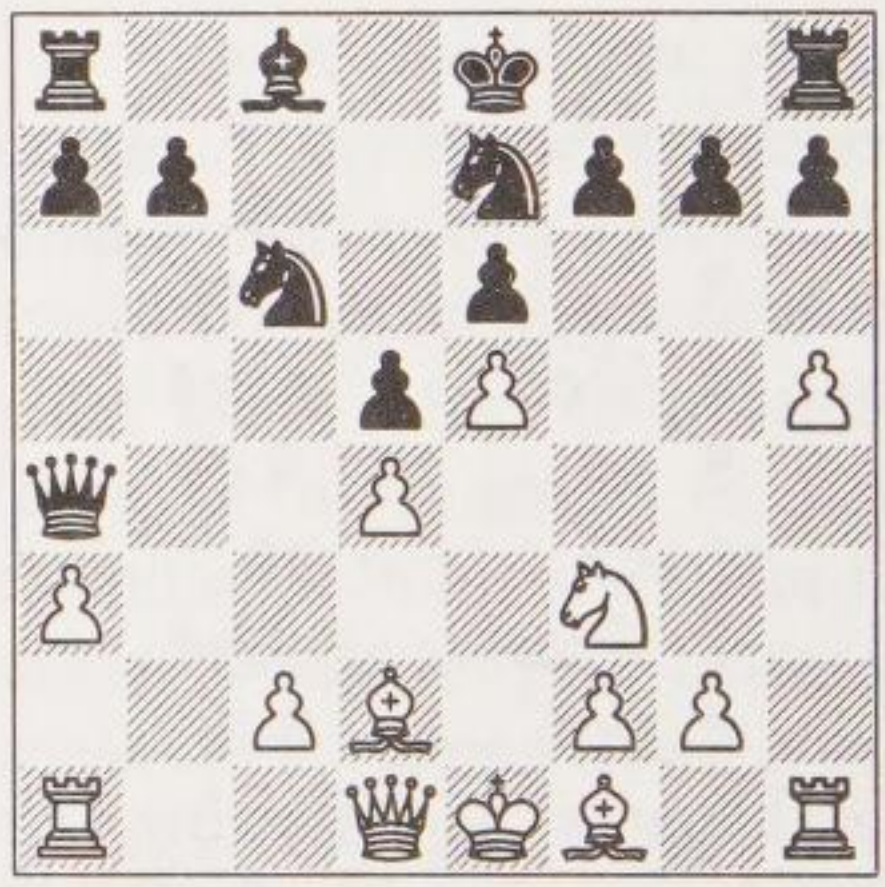
Anand has shown himself susceptible to one-move blunders like these. If he is to have any chance at all, they need to be eradicated totally. The Anand that beat Kamsky in Las Palmas seemed a much more careful fellow than in earlier years. The only danger is that nerves might play an adverse role. For this reason Anand must try to relax and actually *enjoy* the match.

Kasparov-Anand
Linares 1992
French Winawer

1	**e4**	**e6**
2	**d4**	**d5**
3	**♘c3**	**♗b4**
4	**e5**	**c5**
5	**a3**	**♗xc3+**
6	**bxc3**	**♘e7**
7	**h4**	

More recently Kasparov has had a couple of spectacular successes with 7 ♕g4, for example his win against Nikolic in the Intel Grand Prix final in Paris 1994.

7	**...**	**♘bc6**
8	**h5**	**♕a5**
9	**♗d2**	**cxd4**
10	**cxd4**	**♕a4**
11	**♘f3!** *(D)*	



B

A typical Kasparov novelty, giving up the d-pawn for a lead in development and dangerous attacking chances. Previously 11 ♗c3 had been played, hanging on to the d4-pawn.

11	**...**	**♘xd4**
12	**♗d3**	**♘ec6**
13	**♔f1!**	

Kasparov prefers not to castle since he wants his rook operating down the h-file. Now the threat is 14 ♖h4 since ...♘xf3 is no longer check.

13 ... ♘xf3
14 ♕xf3 b6?

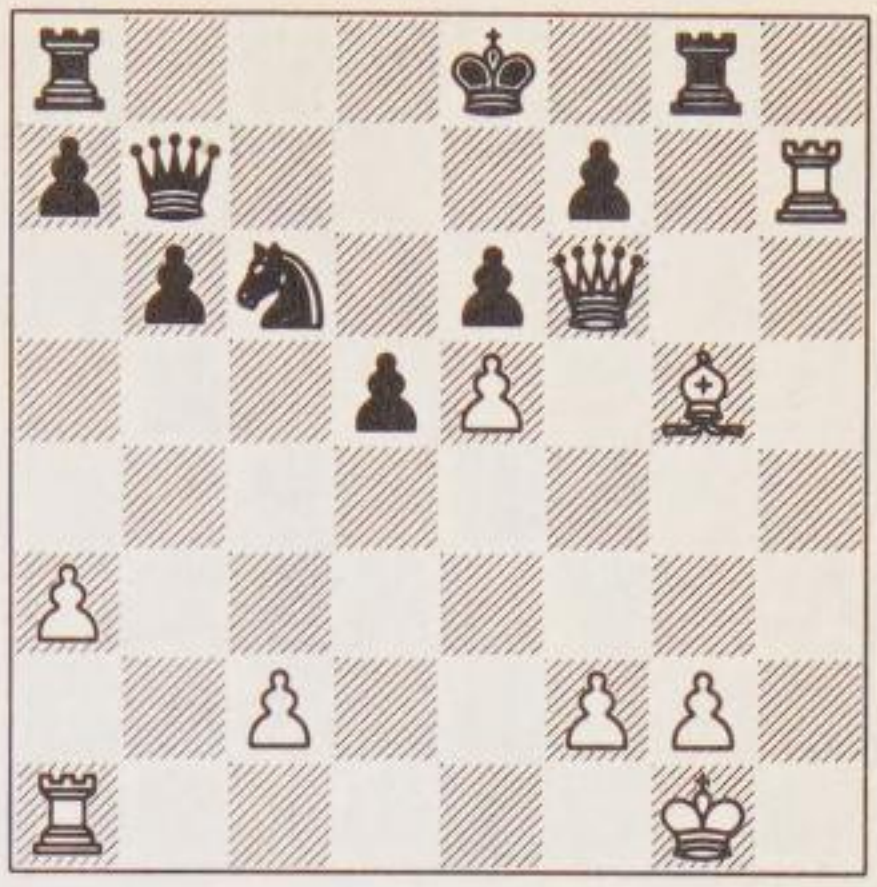
The idea is to exchange light-squared bishops with ...♗a6, but this seems to be too slow. Anand should have played 14...♕d4 15 ♖e1 ♘xe5 16 ♕g3 ♘xd3 17 cxd3 although in return for his investment of two pawns Kasparov's pieces are all extremely active.

15 h6 ♗a6

If Black holds on to the g-pawn with 15...g6 then 16 ♕f6 fatally traps the king in the centre. After 16...♖g8 17 ♖h4 d4 18 ♔g1 ♗a6 19 ♗e4 White has a winning position due to threat of 20 ♗xc6+, 21 ♗b4, 22 ♖xd4 and 23 ♖ad1 when Anand's king will not be able to cope with the pressure on the dark squares. Note how the black queen has been shut out of the game on a4.

16 hxg7 ♖g8
17 ♗xa6! ♕xa6+
18 ♔g1 ♖xg7
19 ♕f6 ♖g8
20 ♖xh7 ♕b7
21 ♗g5! *(D)*

Kasparov has regained his sacrificed pawn and still has an iron grip on the position.



B

21 ... ♘d4!

Anand at last activates one of his pieces. The immediate threat is not to take the c-pawn, which would allow the white rook into the game after ♖c1, but to reroute the knight with ♘e2-c3-e4.

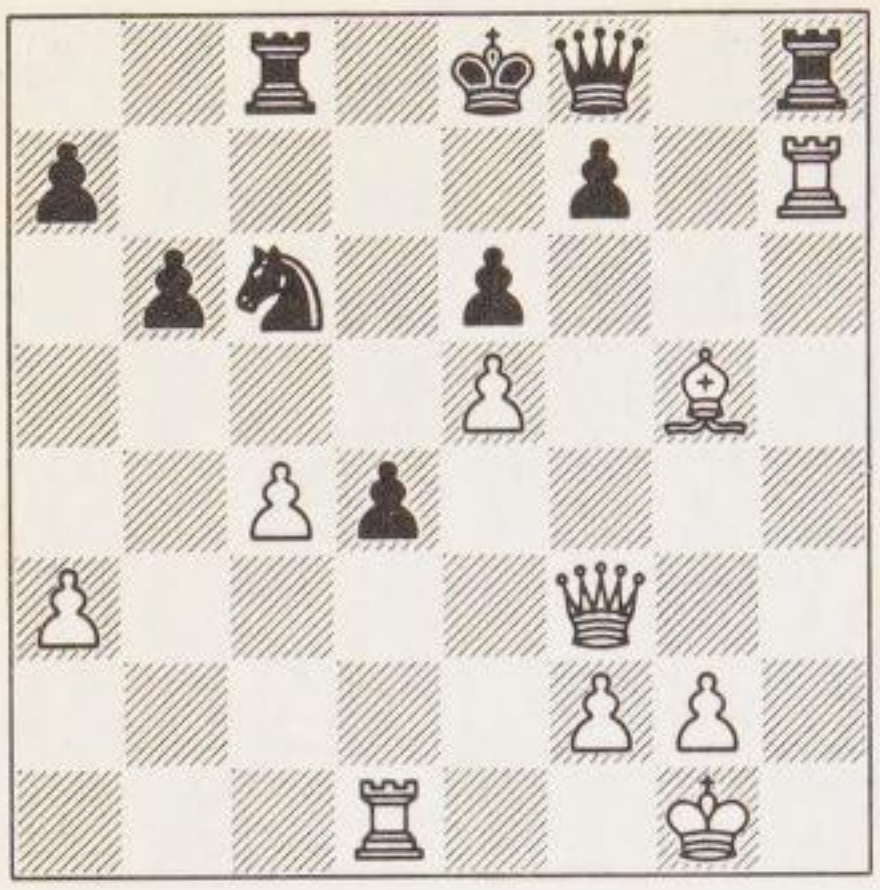
After the alternative 21...♕e7 White has some spectacular variations, for example 22 ♕f4 ♕f8 (22...♖xg5 23 ♖h8+ ♔d7 24 ♖xa8 ♖f5 25 ♕g3 winning) 23 c4! d4 24 ♖d1 ♖h8 25 ♕f3 ♖c8 *(D)*.

Now 26 ♖xd4!! rounds off: 26...♖xh7 27 ♕xc6+ ♖xc6 28 ♖d8 mate, or 26...♘xd4 27 ♕b7 ♖d8 28 ♖xh8 ♕xh8 29 ♕e7 mate.

22 c4 ♘e2+
23 ♔h2 ♘c3
24 ♖h8 ♖xh8+
25 ♕xh8+ ♔d7
26 ♕h7 ♖f8
27 ♗h6

Winning the crucial f7-pawn.

27 ... ♖e8

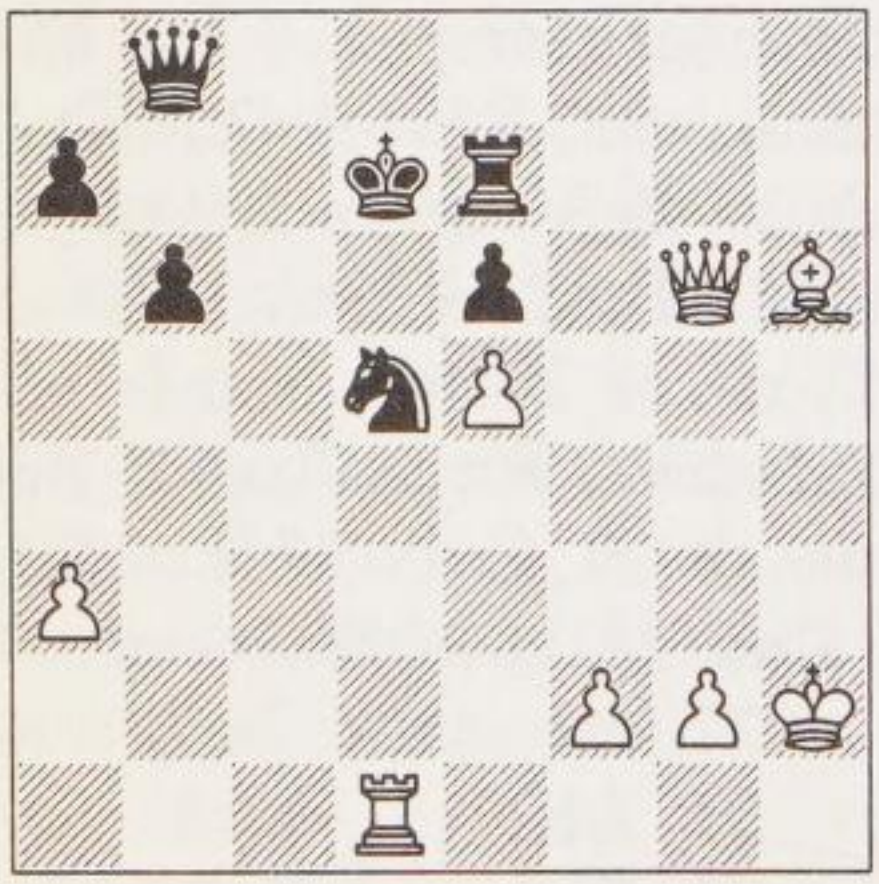


W

28 ♕xf7+ ♖e7
29 ♕g6 ♕b8
30 cxd5 ♘xd5!

Kasparov would achieve a completely winning endgame after 30...♕xe5+ 31 f4! ♕h8 32 dxe6+ ♖xe6 33 ♕g7+.

31 ♖d1? *(D)*



B

Inexplicably giving away the e-pawn. Instead 31 f4! defending e5 would have given Kasparov a completely winning position.

31 ... ♕xe5+
32 f4 ♕h8
33 f5 ♕e5+
34 ♔h1 *(D)*

B

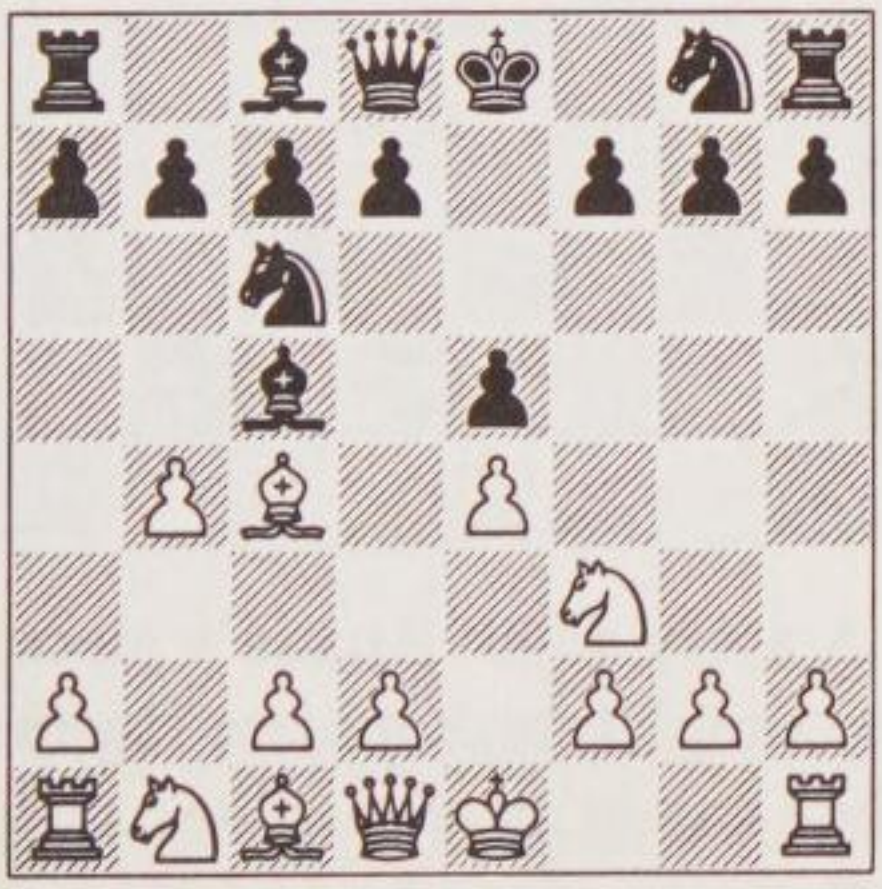
Kasparov's attack has fizzled out and after 34...exf5 35 ♕g8, 35...♕e6! forces the draw: 36 ♖xd5+ ♔c6 37 ♕xe6+ ♖xe6 38 ♖xf5 ♖xh6+. Therefore: **Draw agreed.**

I predict that in the first half of the match, Anand will be under severe pressure. How he copes under fire will determine the final result. Karpov once stated; 'In World Championship Matches, there are critical moments. Who will be stronger and play better in these moments will win the match.' Every worse position must be held, an advantage must be pressed until there is nothing left, and any chance must be taken.

Kasparov has a formidable team, but I do not feel that Anand will be left standing when it comes to pre-game preparation. Yusupov, Speelman and Dvoretsky are a powerful support team, and Anand himself has a tremendous capacity for hard work. The acid test will be how well they can cope with Gazza's little surprises...

Kasparov-Anand
Tal Memorial, Riga 1995
Evans Gambit

1	**e4**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**♗c4**	**♗c5**
4	**b4** *(D)*	



B

Kasparov lashes out with the Evans Gambit, which is an extremely rare opening in top-level tournaments as it had seemingly been exhaustively analysed and is supposed to yield White little. Has Kasparov prepared something?

4	**...**	**♗xb4**
5	**c3**	**♗e7**
6	**d4**	**♘a5**
7	**♗e2**	

This is it! Incredibly, this natural move has only been played once before, in an obscure Soviet game from 1981.

7	**...**	**exd4**
8	**♕xd4**	**♘f6**
9	**e5**	**♘c6**
10	**♕h4**	**♘d5**
11	**♕g3**	**g6**
12	**0-0**	

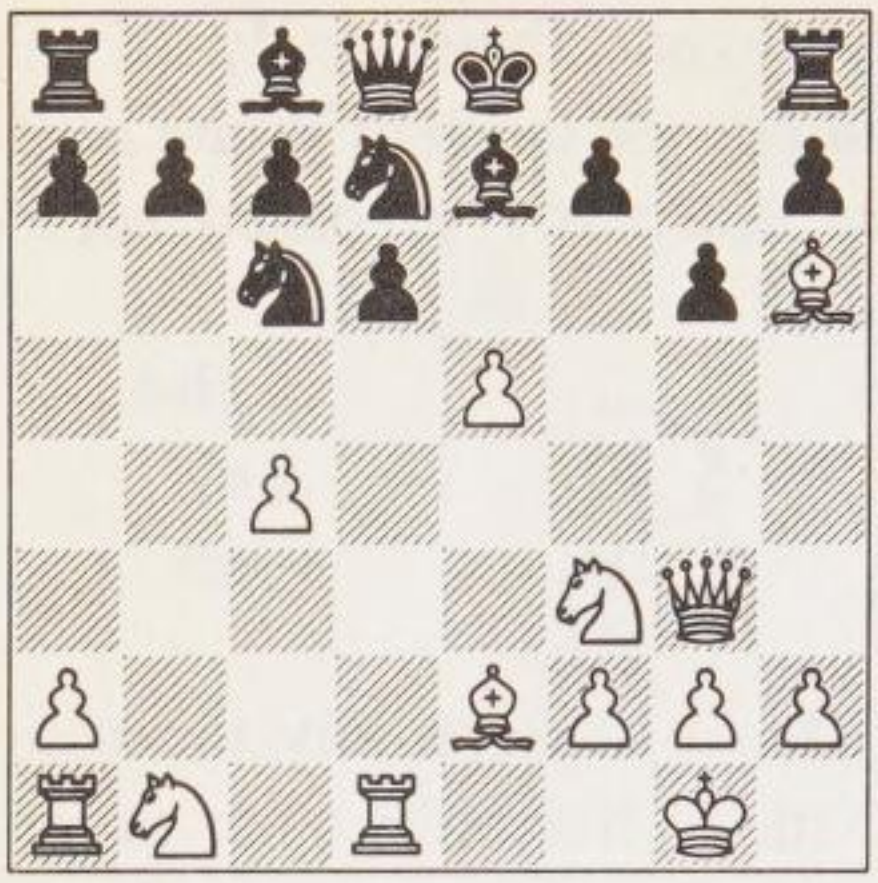
White has a big development lead, open lines and he has weakened the black king. As happens with many of the openings that Kasparov plays, we can now expect a surge in interest in the Evans Gambit.

12	**...**	**♘b6**
13	**c4**	**d6**
14	**♖d1**	

Threatening c5.

14	**...**	**♘d7**
15	**♗h6** *(D)*	

Kasparov jettisons his e-pawn to trap Anand's king in the centre. Active play was necessary since after a routine move like 15 ♘c3, 15...0-0 16 ♗h6 ♖e8 would be OK for Black.



B

15 ... ♘cxe5
16 ♘xe5 ♘xe5
17 ♘c3!

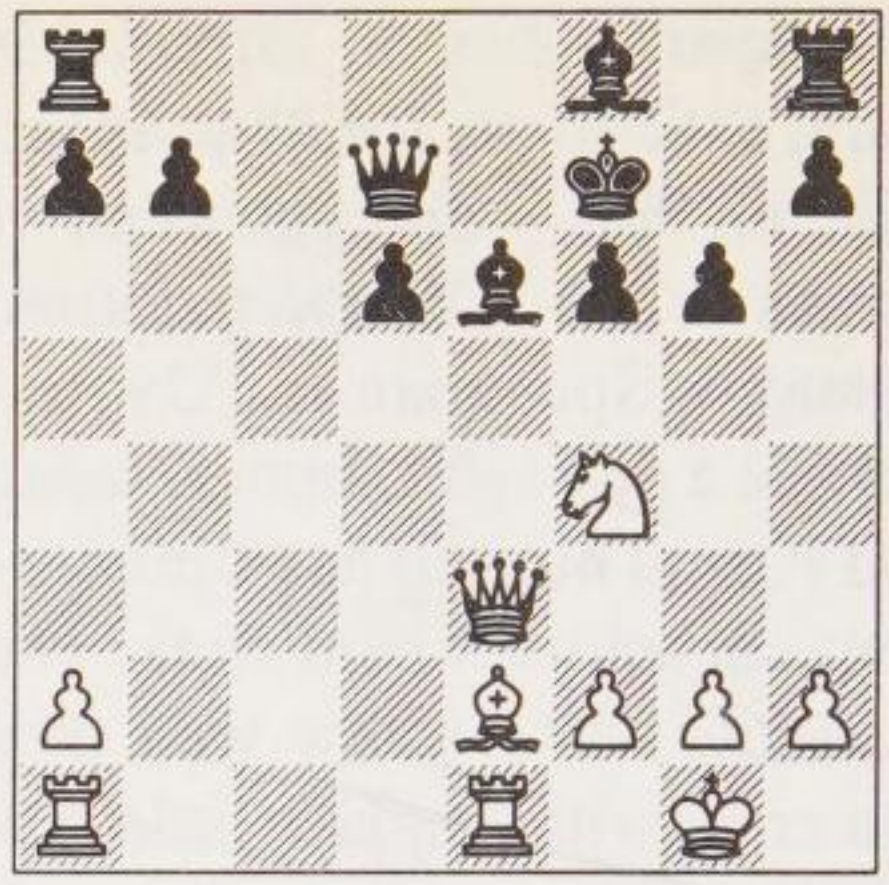
The move 17 ♗g7 would win the exchange, but after 17...♗f6 18 ♗xh8 ♗xh8 Black would have good defensive chances due to his powerful bishop pair and the relative safety of his king.

17 ... f6

Somewhere around here Vishy had to develop his c8-bishop.

18 c5 ♘f7
19 cxd6 cxd6
20 ♕e3 ♘xh6
21 ♕xh6 ♗f8
22 ♕e3+ ♔f7
23 ♘d5 ♗e6
24 ♘f4 ♕e7
25 ♖e1 *(D)*

Here **Anand resigned**. Premature perhaps, but he probably saw that things would be hopeless in the following variation: 25...♕d7 26 ♗d3 ♗g4 27 h3 ♗f5 28 ♗xf5 gxf5 29 ♕b3+ ♔g7 30 ♘e6+ ♔g6 31 ♕g3+ ♔f7 32 ♕f3 ♖e8 33 ♕h5+ ♔g8 34 ♕xf5 *(D)*.



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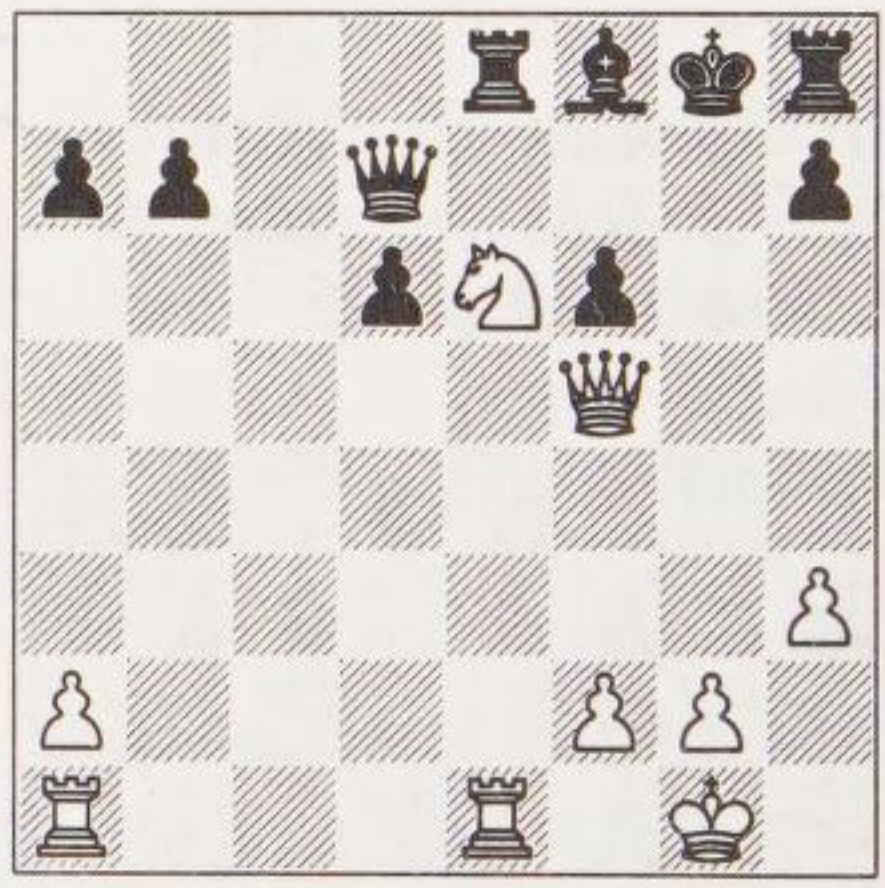


W

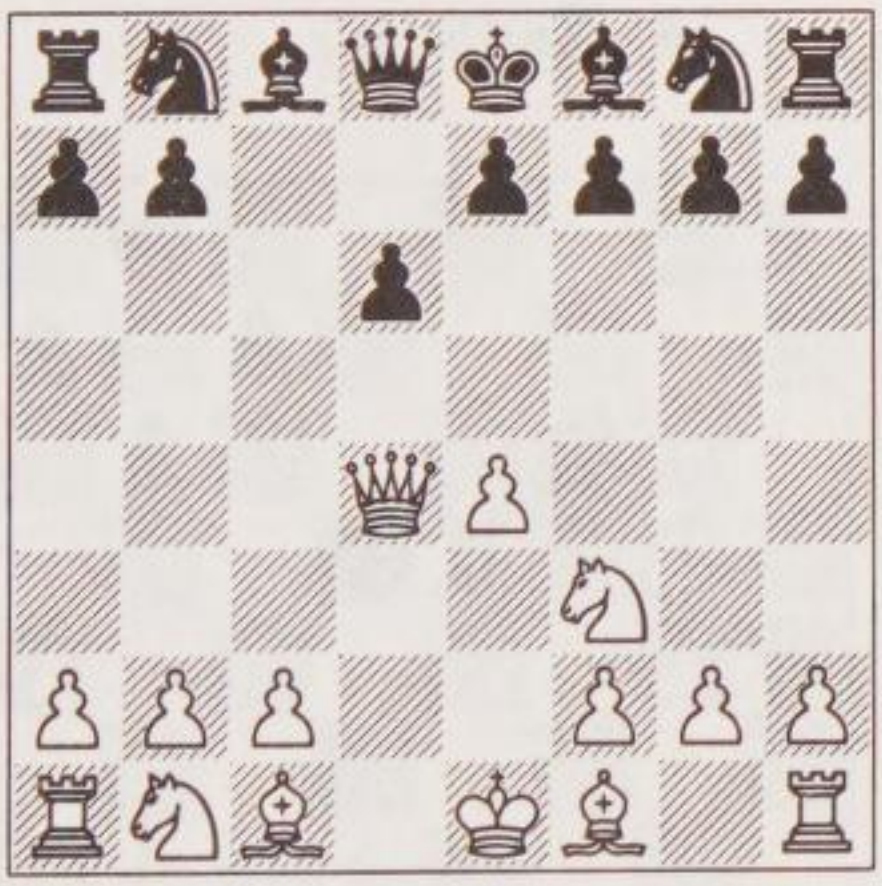
A sorry sight. Anand's pieces are completely dominated by the white knight on e6, and he can do nothing to stop the invasion of Kasparov's rook on a1 via c1-c7 or d1-d3-g3.

The Kasparov fans were nodding their heads after this game.

Who else could resurrect one of the old, romantic openings to score a devastating win against one of the world's leading players? The pre-match sparring reached an even greater climax a few weeks later in Moscow...

Anand-Kasparov
Intel Grand Prix, Moscow 1995
Sicilian

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**d6**
3	**d4**	**cxd4**
4	**♕xd4** *(D)*	



B

This unusual move avoids all the theory that Kasparov knows inside out after the more normal 4 ♘xd4, and is a good idea in a 25-minute game, forcing Kasparov to consume time right from the start. After the first game had petered out into a quick draw, many people thought that Anand's 4th move was another peace offer. However, they were soon forced to change that assessment!

4 ... ♗d7

4...a6 was played in the game Watson-Howell, British Ch 1994, a game which Watson won on his way to taking the title.

5 c4

Anand sets up a Maroczy Bind, which is characterised by the pawns on e4 and c4, ensuring a space advantage.

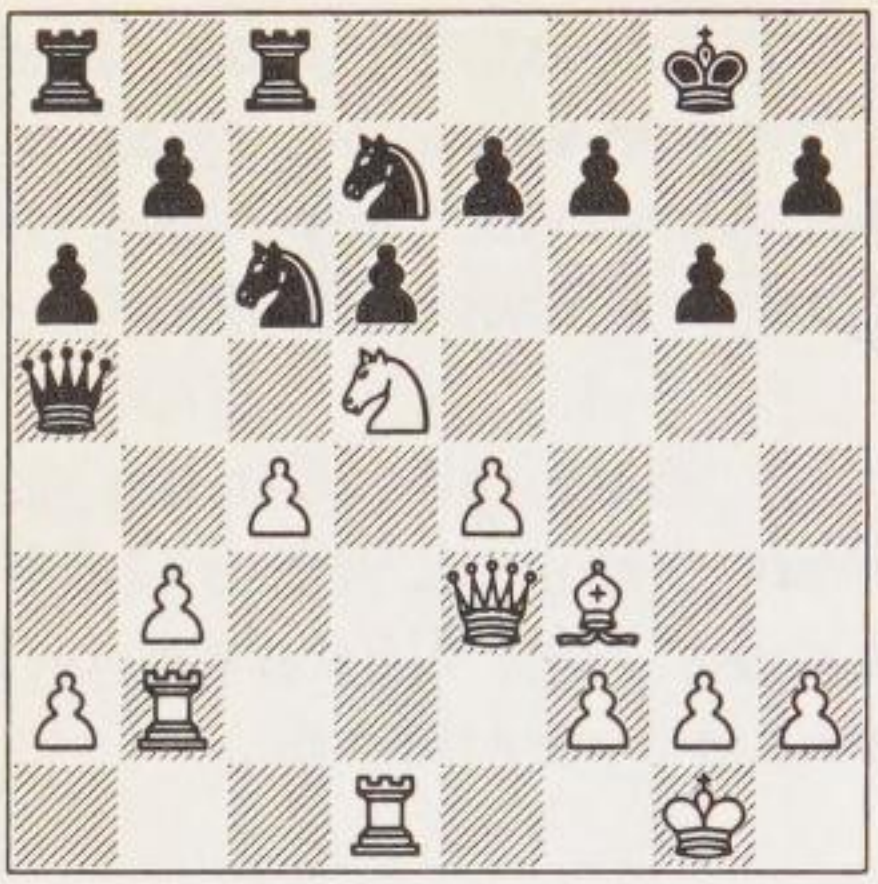
5	**...**	**♘c6**
6	**♕d2**	**g6**
7	**♗e2**	**♗g7**
8	**0-0**	**♘f6**
9	**♘c3**	**0-0**
10	**♖b1**	**a6**
11	**b3**	**♕a5**
12	**♗b2**	**♖fc8**
13	**♖fd1**	**♗g4**
14	**♕e3**	**♘d7**
15	**♘d5**	**♗xb2**

Black cannot play 15...♕xa2 as 16 ♗xg7 ♔xg7 17 ♖a1 ♕b2 18 ♖db1 traps the queen.

16	**♖xb2**	**♗xf3**
17	**♗xf3** *(D)*	

17 ... e6??

Black is behind on the clock and tries to force matters, but only manages to weaken his d6-pawn fatally. Instead he should have played the standard counterthrust 17...b5.



B

18 ♘c3 ♖d8
19 ♖bd2

19 ♖xd6 was also possible but Anand plays quickly and builds up the pressure.

19 ... ♘de5
20 ♗e2

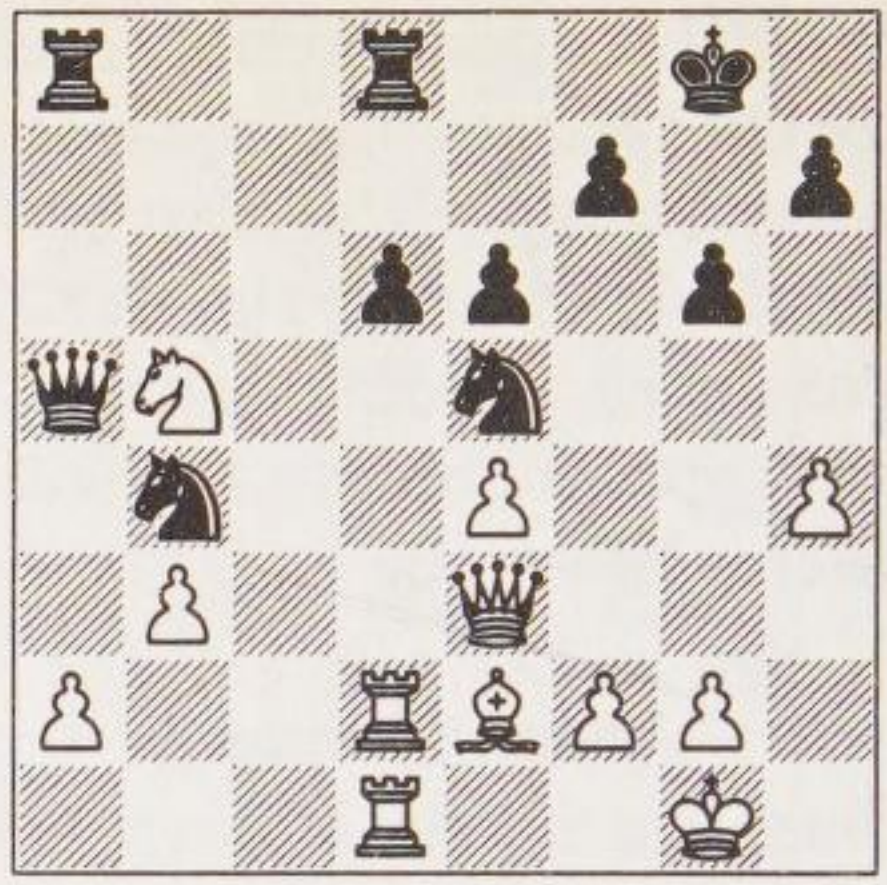
Threatening 21 f4.

20 ... ♘b4
21 h4

Again Anand sees no reason to rush things, and, with his opponent consuming more and more time, he just keeps the tension in the position. The move played threatens h5-h6, and avoids back-rank mates in any future time scramble.

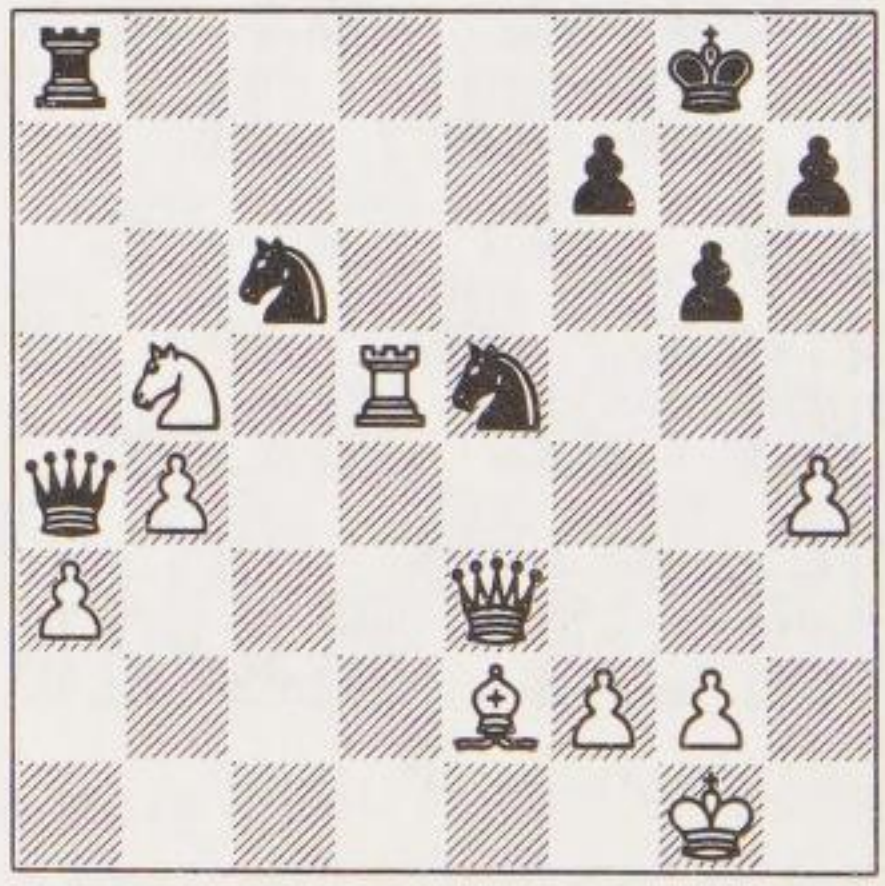
21 ... b5
22 cxb5 axb5
23 ♘xb5 *(D)*

Now 23...♘xa2 loses a piece to 24 ♖a1, so Black has simply dropped a pawn, and with it the game.



B

23 ... ♘bc6
24 a3 d5
25 exd5 ♖xd5
26 ♖xd5 exd5
27 b4 ♕a4
28 ♖xd5 *(D)*



B

Two pawns down for nothing, Kasparov now **resigned**. However, the most startling aspect of this game was that Kasparov had only 4 minutes left when he resigned, whereas Anand had only

used 10 minutes for the whole game. When he is on form, the young Indian is capable of making even the World Champion look very ordinary.

In his early career, before even his match with Korchnoi in 1983, Garry Kasparov would have a sign in his room; 'If not you, then who else?' I do not know when he first began carrying this motto around; perhaps at first it was just youthful bravado. It would be interesting to know if he still has it. After so many years it no longer sounds brash but somehow poignantly appropriate.

It reminds one of the Arthurian Legend; which knight is worthy enough to claim the Holy Grail? Could Anand be the one? In the final analysis I would have to answer 'probably not'. Anand has unlimited potential, but Kasparov also has a power that has never been fully tested. But then, in the streets of Calcutta, I once saw a cow overtake a motorbike. Things happen.

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Grandmaster **David Norwood** is a member of the England team. He is the *Daily Telegraph* (London) chess columnist, who also writes on chess for the *Economist* (London), and is one of the regulars on BBC 2's chess coverage. His first book for Batsford, *Winning With the Modern*, was published in 1994.

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